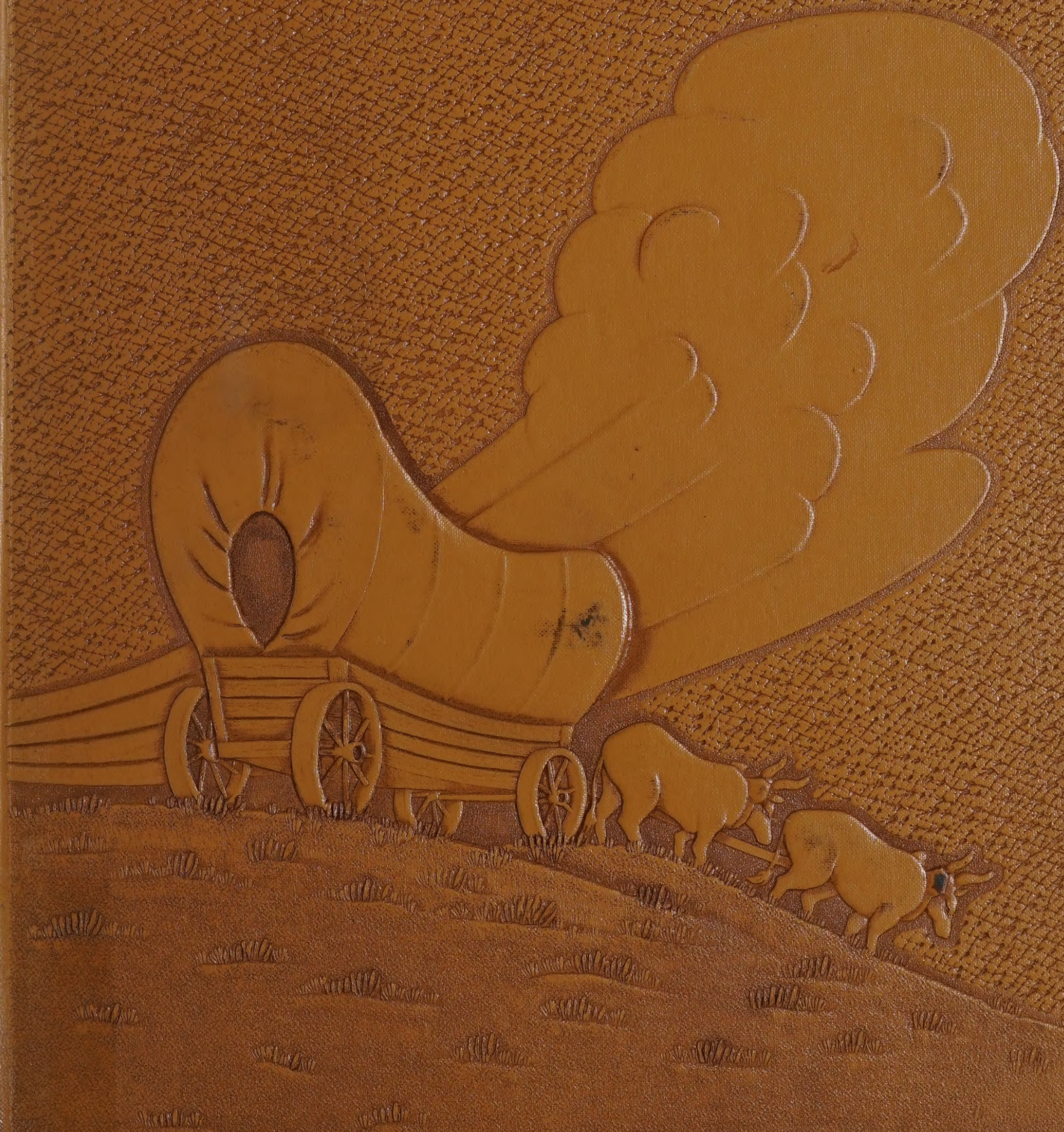


BELL COUNTY HISTORY



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BELL COUNTY HISTORY

A pictorial history of Bell County, Texas,
covering both the old and the new.

THIS PUBLICATION IS SPONSORED BY THE
TEMPLE JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AND DEDICATED TO THE MEN AND WOMEN
WHO HAVE MADE BELL COUNTY ONE OF
THE OUTSTANDING SECTIONS OF THE STATE.

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Out of the past--

Dusting off the memories and stories of the past has long been a satisfactory manner in which to bring into new brightness and proper perspective the forethought, courage and devotion of those who pioneered this great country. The application of the mental whisk broom on the legend-laden past of Bell County is no exception.

This volume, while not intended to cover every detail of the development of the area, is designed to give some insight into the basic drives and intangibles of the people who wrought the miracle of progress. It contains the little stories and the big stories of men and women—stories which in light of a full history are not too important, but to the individual concerned are of major import.

Admittedly, some the dates and details may conflict with other versions of the same happenings. This can, in most instances, be attributed to faults of the human mind, time and the combination of the two rather than to direct error. Time has a way of pinpointing the pleasant, discounting the unpleasant and expanding the sensational.

From the days of the wandering Indians, through the times when steaks on the hoof were the big money and the fowls of the barnyard were the



pocket change, right into the intensive industrial development of the present there is a story to be told.

It is a story as earthly and meandering as the dusty Chisholm Trail which once creased ruts into the very heart of Salado. It is a tale as thrilling in retrospect as the many clashes of the white men and Indians. It also is a series of recollections as dynamic as the awe-inspiring machines of war which have been gathered to make a great military installation in the county. When reviewed in total it is as gleaming as the modern medical institutions which have made the county recognized as a leader in the constant battle against pain and disease.

The smells, sounds and feelings of the bygone days of the wagon yard and livery stable were different from those of today but, basically, the men and women have remained the same.

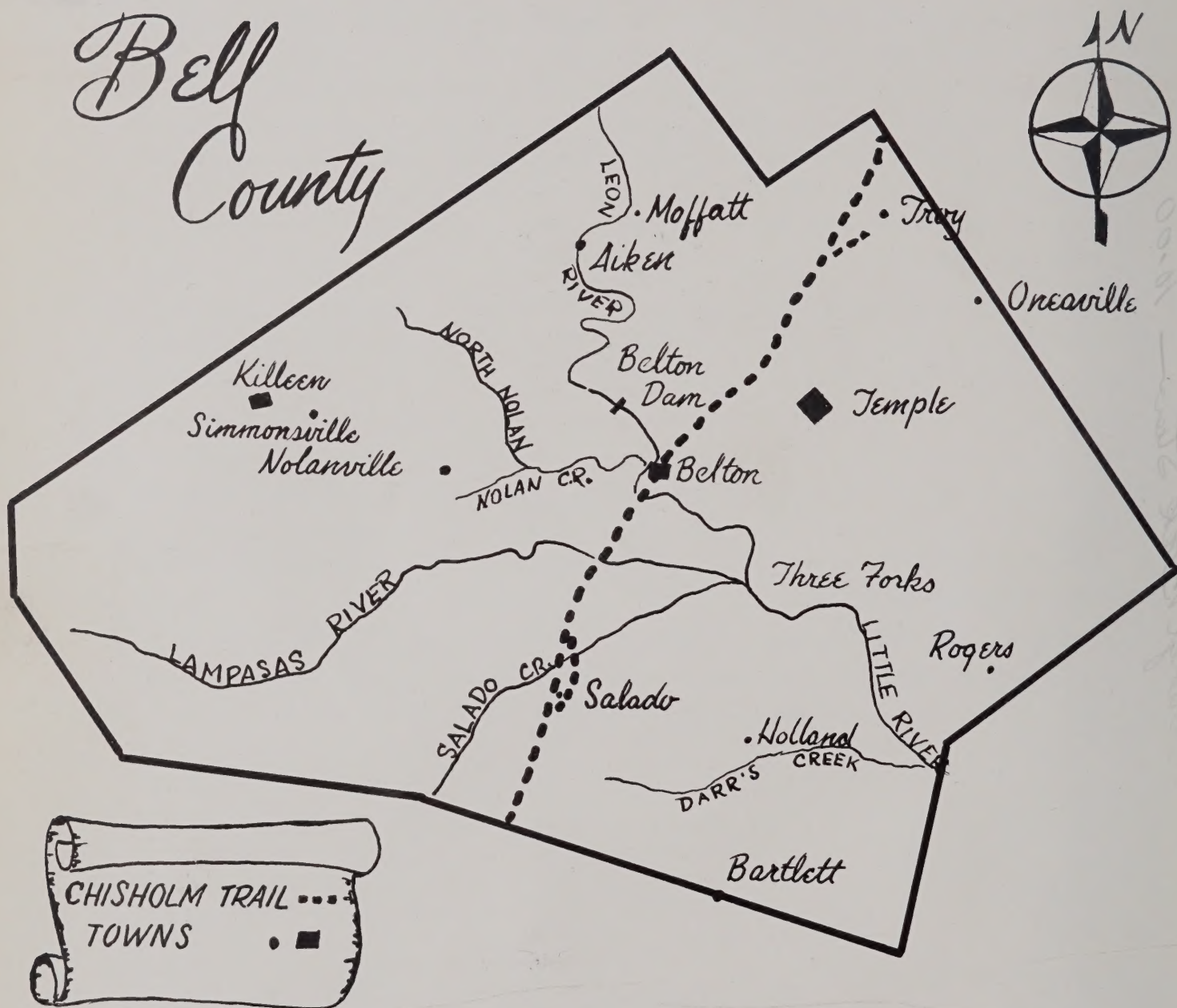
This story of yesterday came from photographs and documents gathered from musty trunks in dim attics and from the memories of man and his written records. Bringing the material into this more permanent, more cohesive form was the work of many. The sponsors, the Temple Junior Chamber of Commerce, directed the collection of material from countless individuals and organizations.

From these storehouses of legend and detail came this book—a volume dedicated to the men and women of the past and present who fashioned a wild, nature-ruled land into a region rich in the heritage which it passes on to each new generation.

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This is a composite sketch taken from several maps, both old and new, showing such diverse things as the now-extinct town of Aiken and the new Belton Dam. No claim is made for its mathematical accuracy. Nor is it complete. To attempt to include all places mentioned in this book would result in an unintelligible scramble of inaccuracy. The purpose here is to provide a way for the reader to orient himself, at a glance, with the approximate relative positions of some of the towns, the Chisholm Trail, and especially the main streams.



he rattling sabers of Old World French and Spanish rulers had little effect on that part of their "subject" territory that was to become Bell County, Texas, U.S.A., a country busy with animal life but practically unknown to the white man.

The high, waving sedge grass would die down each winter, forming a protective blanket for luxurious green winter grass. Vast acres of wild flowers bloomed in season as insects buzzed about their appointed tasks.

Animal life, from bison on down the size scale, lived well off the land. A deer would bolt, warned of some possible danger by his alert nose or by the call of a distant bird. Small four-footed anglers fished the then-clear streams.

The only sign of man was when an occasional band of Indians appeared to hunt and then move on. They had no interest in making permanent settlements.

But, by the time the government of the Mexican state of Coahuila-Texas began speaking, its words were nearer and colonization by Anglo-Americans was on the way.

This area was attractive to prospective settlers because of the liberal terms offered colonists and the abundance of wild game and fish. The broad prairies were well adapted to the raising of livestock and extensive ranching activities probably entered into the future planning of many of the settlers. Farming was then not generally considered practical on a large scale because



of the uncertainty of rainfall and the distance from good markets, but crops sufficient to support a family could be grown along the waterways. It was along these streams that the first settlements were made, close to good water, game and fish which would come in handy while waiting for the first crops of corn and table vegetables to "make." Another important consideration was that the Indians were not as likely to attack along the wooded stream banks as they were in the open country. There might be a settler behind each tree. Even so, Indians were to be the main trouble for many years.

Physically, this new country ranged in elevation from 450 feet above sea level in the southeastern part to 1,200 feet in the extreme west, with most of the county lying between 400 and 800 feet. About half the eastern portion was covered with rich, black-waxy soil with the surface gently rolling with hills near the larger streams. The western part was cut deeply by stream valleys but provided excellent forage for animals. Most of the county was drained by the Little River, which came into being about six miles southeast of Belton, at the junction of the Lampasas, Leon and Salado and ran south until it joined the Brazos. Most of the streams were tame during dry spells but changed into raging torrents during periods of heavy rainfall as they dropped off steeply in their flow through the region.

Near to where the Little River flowed into the Brazos in the present Milam County about four and one-half miles southeast of Gause was Old Nashville, the first capital of the Sterling C. Robertson Colony of which the present Bell County was a part.

Nashville was the jumping-off point for settlers headed north and west, the supply point where they met and teamed for mutual protection and the place to which they fled in times of Indian dangers. It was the capital of Milam County during the days of the Texas Republic and so remained, except for a short period when Caldwell was the county seat, until Cameron was laid out in 1846. In 1834 headquarters of the Robertson Colony was moved to the newly-established village of Sarahville de Viesca, up the river and a few miles south of the present Marlin. By the time of the Civil War, Nashville was merely a country post office and was abandoned by the late 1860s.

The idea of settling the Robertson Colony, north and west of the Stephen F. Austin Colony, was born to a group of Tennesseans as early as 1822. There were delays, misunderstandings and setbacks that resulted in the colony, at various times, being under control of Austin and then Robertson. Outside of producing some disputed land titles and boundaries this had no marked effect on the local story and is left to law students and books on general Texas history.

Under the Mexican government the only records kept were the notations of grants to settlers. There were no recordings made of sales, transfers or deeds until Milam County (comprising Bell and several

other present counties) was set up under the Republic of Texas in 1836.

These records were destroyed when the courthouse at Cameron burned in 1874 so the answers to such questions as who actually settled where, how they lived and what became of them was largely left to the memories of the settlers themselves and to later records.

Historians in this case were especially fortunate in that several of the first settlers or their children took an interest in collecting and writing what had and was happening.

Maj. John Henry Brown began writing history with the first publication of his *Belton Democrat* in 1860 and completed several valuable manuscripts.

George W. Tyler, lawyer, state senator and one-time member of the University of Texas board of regents, knew many of the first settlers personally, including uncles, aunts, parents and neighbors who came to the Little River in the 1830s. He took an early interest in history and spent his lifetime interviewing pioneers and consulting old records. Many papers based on first-hand accounts were read and discussed at reunions of the Old Settlers Association of Bell County which Judge Tyler helped found in 1898 and which officially existed for six years. Tyler died in 1927 before realizing his dream of publishing a book making use of all his material. However, his family in 1936 published his book "History of Bell County" edited by Charles W. Ramsdell. This volume of more than 400 pages is jammed with well-authenticated, well-organized and interesting material.

Another man who spent his life gathering historical material by the trunk full was Dr. Alex Dienst. There were others, too numerous to mention, who helped preserve the heritage of Bell County.

The Texas frontier offered a challenge to the men and women who entered it. Under the law, each family was to receive a labor (177 acres) of farm land and 24 labors of grazing land, making a total of one league or 4,428 acres. Single men would receive one-fourth of this amount.

Settlers were to pay \$30 for each league in three installments — four, five and six years from date of grant.

One thing which caused confusion was the fact that native citizens of Mexico were permitted to buy as much as 11 leagues. In 1833 while the colony temporarily was out of the control of Empresario Robertson and under Austin and his associates an Austin colleague sold several large land grants along the Little River. Wrangling the power of attorney from a Mexican citizen, perhaps one who was never to see Texas, speculators thus purchased some of this land. Although they did not introduce colonists, there was later litigation resulting in settlements of various sorts.

Tyler states that there were only eight actual settlements in the present Bell County before the Texas

ORIGIN OF NAMES OF BELL COUNTY POST OFFICES

AMES — For William Ames who circulated petition to have post office established (discontinued).

BLAND—For D. T. Bland who settled there in 1840 (discontinued).

BARTLETT—For John T. Bartlett, early settler.

BELTON—For Peter H. Bell, a soldier in the Texas army and governor of Texas from 1849-53.

HEIDENHEIMER—For S. Heidenheimer who was a director of Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Railway in 1879.

HOLLAND—For J. R. Holland, early settler.

KILLEEN—For Frank P. Killeen, official of Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe in 1880.

LITTLE RIVER—For a nearby stream of that name.

NOLANVILLE — For Phillip Nolan who reportedly was

killed southwest of Waco by Spaniards on March 21, 1801. By an act of the State Legislature in 1876, Nolan County also was named for him.

OENAVILLE—For Miss Oena Griffin by C. D. Johnson who had a store there in 1872.

PENDLETON—For George C. Pendleton, early settler.

ROGERS—For John D. Rogers of Galveston, a director of the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe in 1879.

SALADO—Named from a spring-fed creek of that name which flows through town.

TEMPLE—For Maj. B. M. Temple who in 1880-81 was chief engineer for the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe.

TROY—Selected at a meeting after a citizen mentioned Troy, N. Y.

Declaration of Independence on March 2, 1836 and that all were in the Little River area.

On the north bank at the present southern county line was the family of Goldsby Childers, Tyler's maternal grandfather, and staying with them were Herman and George W. Chapman, Ezekiel Robinson and "Old Man Rhodes," all single men.

Three of Childers' sons, Thomas, Robert and James Franklin, entitled to one-fourth league as single men, had made their selections above and below their father's land but did not have time to improve the land before events forced them out. They never received final titles.

Above the Childers family was the home of John Needham, a single man, and above him was the league of Dr. Robert Davidson which included the site of Little River. Next came the large family of Moses Griffin, the upper line of whose survey fell about opposite the mouth of Little River.

About a mile and one-half above the Griffin place was the league of William H. Taylor. This league embraced what later became the settlement of Taylor's Valley. In 1835 this family was composed of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, Josiah Taylor, who was Taylor's son by a former marriage, William, Stephen and Catherine Frazier who was Mrs. Taylor's children by her former marriage, and two younger children, Seymour Brown Taylor and J. Wilson Taylor.

Moving again south to north, this time on the opposite bank of the Little, the first settler was Michael Reed who lived on 177 acres across the stream from a league he owned on the north side. With him lived his two single sons. William had chosen a labor on the south bank adjoining his father's on the lower line and Jefferson's tract adjoined John Needham's southern boundary on the north bank.

Next came the league of John Fulcher.

The league of Orville T. Tyler, father of the judge, was about eight miles up the river.

A booklet published in 1900 by the Belton Journal Reporter also lists the following as having been among the original settlers: On Elm Creek, Alex Dug-

gins, Samuel Humm, William Berryman, Joseph L. Hood, William Woodford, Juan Cardon, Thornton Stone, Erastus Smith, Daniel H. Campbell and Taliaferro Hughes; on the Leon River, Redding Roberts, Nancy Chance, Baldwin Robertson and Matilda F. Connell. This booklet also contained biographies of some of the important men of Belton. There is a photograph of Judge Tyler's office, full of books and furniture but empty of any human being. The caption explains that several visits were made to the office to gather material for a "sketch" but that each time the judge was in the district courtroom engaged in an important case. It concludes by stating: "Well, a man whose practice keeps him so busy that he cannot find time to talk about himself doesn't need to be advertised by printer's ink."

Indians were a constant threat to the first settlers, but there was an occasional friendly group which would camp near a settlement and exchange gifts and visits with the whites on the most cordial terms.

Several other individuals and families were accepted as colonists and some visited their lands but returned to Nashville or other early villages to gather supplies and equipment or visit until the Indian menace had subsided. Included in this group reportedly were Wiley Carter, Charles Curtis, George Dougherty, David Mumford, Jesse Mumford and William C. Sparks. The colony land office listed others who may or may not have occupied their titles.

Late in March of 1836 distressing news came to the scattered settlers who were just getting started in the realization of their dreams. The Alamo had fallen and Sam Houston was in full retreat before the vastly stronger forces of Santa Anna. Word came that the Mexicans had secured the allegiance of the Indians to the northwest. Each time this report was repeated it probably grew in the way rumors usually do.

At any rate, not wanting to risk being squeezed between Indians and Mexicans, the settlers left their new homes and crops and most of them headed for Nashville, expecting to strike the old San Antonio

road below there and proceed on to the Sabine.

But the Goldsby Childers family and others gathered at Parker's Fort on the Navasota where the older men prepared to make a stand. Most of the young men of the colony met at the old village of Tenoxtitlan on the Brazos. Here they enlisted and set out to join Houston's forces. Tyler says that among those from the area were Herman Chapman, George W. Chapman, Robert Childers, William Frazier, Stephen Frazier, John Needham, William Reed, Jefferson Reed, Josiah Taylor and Orville T. Tyler.

When within a day's travel from the army, this group was turned back by the news that the battle of San Jacinto had been fought and won by the Texans. So, the volunteers headed back to see about their families, relatives and friends.

Most families elected to remain in relatively well settled country for a time, until the danger of Indian raids was known to have died down. The Childers family returned to their place on Little River along with men from several of the other families. Making the Childers' place headquarters and working together for protection, this group went up and down the river gathering and storing the corn crop, regardless of whether the owners had yet returned.

This task had been almost completed by about the first week of June, 1836 when two messengers from Nashville brought news that a large Indian invasion was brewing. The messengers urged the pioneers

to rush back to Nashville for protection. They also told of the fall of Parker's Fort and the capture of little Cynthia Ann Parker whose life with the Comanches was to become a legend. The Parker and Childers families had come to Texas from Illinois in the same group. Others who came with them and later settled in Bell County included Rev. Isaac Crouch, Dr. Robert Davidson, Joseph Ferguson, the McCandless family, the Chapmans and the Thomp-
sons.

As the 15 colonists and two messengers retreated toward Nashville, a large party of Indians killed Dr. Robert Davidson and Reverend Crouch who were riding ahead.

The young Republic of Texas was in no condition to offer adequate troop protection for its frontiers and most of the colonists chose to remain in the safer, more thickly settled country.

A relatively small number of Rangers was recruited by the government for protection against the Indians. Members were promised \$25 per month and 1,280 acres of land for each year's service. They had to furnish their own mounts and arms and the government would supply ammunition and rations. The latter were usually scarce and the men depended upon the country to provide table provisions. George B. Erath enlisted in the fall of 1836 and was in command of the Rangers who built Little River Fort east



IT WAS HERE—The marker on the left locates Fort Griffin, sometimes known as Little River Fort and Fort Smith. The site is the present home of Hal Harlaick. The smaller sign to the right describes the old ceme-



tery which is some distance behind the house and contains the graves of many pioneers including those of first-settlers Moses Griffin and his wife, which are shown to the right.

of the Leon about a mile and a half west of the subsequent railroad station at Little River. He reported instances of men giving their whole claims for land and money in advance in exchange for a horse or other equipment.

The Childers family, it is reported, returned to their home but spent the winter of 1836 within the stockade at Little River Fort. The only other family living there was that of Ranger Daniel Cullins. Robert Childers, although not an enlisted member, accompanied the Rangers on many of their tasks and was killed by the Indians.

In November of 1836, Michael Reed came back to his land in the southern part of the present county. He was accompanied by Col. William C. Sparks and a Negro slave. With John Welch, another immigrant, they barely escaped with their lives after Indians jumped them. They headed back to safer territory.

In this same busy fall of 1836 (some reports say 1835) the William H. Taylor family had returned to their double log cabin with its connecting "breeze-way." Northermost of the original settlements, it was particularly vulnerable.

A full dramatization of the accounts of the Indian attack on the Taylor family likely would be too rich for even today's wildest television shows. It seems the whole family was involved and the settlement of Taylor's Valley was named in honor of the bravery shown that moonlight night of Nov. 12 when the yard dog gave the alarm.

A 12-year-old boy stood on the table and fired through an opening in the top of the door, dispatching the first Indian. His father got the next one. The

Indians then set fire to the empty part of the house. While Taylor and his young stepson fired through cracks in the house Mrs. Taylor and the girl got down by the fire and molded bullets. While so engaged, Mrs. Taylor saw an Indian's face appear at a hole in the house. This brave received a shovel-full of hot coals in the face.

During a lull, Mrs. Taylor climbed onto a table and began fighting the blaze with liquids handed up to her. When water was exhausted, she finished the job with vinegar and buttermilk and saved the occupied section of the house.

Later that night the family gathered a few belongings and made its way to the Childers place. (Some accounts say they went to Little River Fort which was constructed during November and December of 1836 and abandoned in 1837). However, Judge Tyler's mother told him she vividly remembered the Taylor's coming to the Childers' home.

There is no evidence that the Taylors returned until 1848 or 1850 when Mrs. Taylor, then a widow, came back to live in Taylor's Valley.

For several years after the Taylor's hectic stand the Indianthreat effectively kept settlers out of the present Bell County area. This was the period of the great Indian fighters whose exploits were to become legendary.

In 1849 the United States established Fort Gates, the present Gatesville, as one of a string of installations extending from the Red River to the Rio Grande. A force of 100 cavalrymen moved in. One of the officers, Lt. Horace Haldeman of Pennsylvania, was later to settle at old Troy and become a prominent Bell



BLACKBURN HOME BUILT NEAR BELTON IN 1852



ONCE A TOWN—This beautiful grassy bend on the Leon River was chosen by Abner Kuykendall in 1847 on which to found Old Aiken.

County citizen and Confederate officer. Another, Lt. George E. Pickett, became the Major General Pickett who led the famous Confederate charge at Gettysburg in 1863.

Several families moved to the site of Fort Gates. Orville T. Tyler, Col. William C. Dalrymple and Henry McKay were awarded the contract to furnish corn and hay for the post and Robert Childers contracted to furnish beef on the hoof.

New settlements had begun to appear over the county and one newcomer who was especially welcome was John Pennington who came from Illinois to the Sulphur Spring on Salado Creek. He had a hand-operated mill and invited one and all to come grind their corn. Another mill soon was being operated by Robert Childers and his brother-in-law, Thomas W. Walden, on the Lampasas. Gordon W. Shanklin subsequently acquired and modernized this little over-shot water wheel affair with its one set of burrs which could grind eight bushels of corn in 24 hours of continuous runnings.

Neighbors living as far away as 30 miles would bring in shelled corn and exchange it for meal. It is said that Robert (Uncle Bob) Childers knew so well the speed and capacity of the mill that he would fill the hopper and go about his business — fishing, hunting or what-not — and know just when to return to replenish the hopper. Industry and automation had arrived! This little mill became a community center where folks came for protection from the Indians or for information. James M. Cross took Walden's place at the mill and T. A. Supple put in a store which he later sold to John M. Payne.

By the late 1850s several more mills were grinding corn and wheat, assuring the settlers of a supply of meal and flour without the necessity of a wagon trip which would take longer than it would now require to traverse the continent.

Rawhide was fashioned into wearing apparel, harness, pack sacks, door latches and chair bottoms as the frontiersmen used what was at hand to meet

their needs. More and more cattle were being raised.

The area still was a part of Milam County which covered an area greater than the entire state of Vermont. Cameron was the county seat and it was often a great hardship to be forced to journey so far to transact official business.

As early as 1848 the legislature was petitioned for the creation of a county in this area to be known as "Clear Water County." This did not materialize but the next year petitions were presented for the creation of Falls, McClellan and Bell. The latter was authorized Jan. 22, 1850 and named for the newly-elected governor, Peter Hansborough Bell, who had been a private at the battle of San Jacinto and later distinguished himself as a Ranger.

The first page of the long and colorful history of Bell County was written one April day more than 107 years ago under a spreading oak tree on the east bank of the Leon River a short distance below the military crossing.

It was here that the five commissioners who were elected to organize the county met. They were Joseph Dennis, John Fulcher, Melville Wilkerson, Cornelius B. Roberts and Josiah Hart.

The five accepted the grant of 120 acres on the Matilda F. Connell league from Mrs. Matilda F. Allen as the site for the county seat. The county seat was first called Nolanville because it was on the banks of Nolan Creek. In 1851 the name was changed to Belton.

The commissioners directed William Armstrong, surveyor of Milam land district, to establish the boundaries of the county and locate the geographical center of the county.

The county was created out of Milam County in 1850 at the instigation of George Burney, Milam representative, who introduced the bill to create the new county at the first legislative session in 1850.



SPARTA HOME—This home belonged to G. W. Walton who came to the Sparta area in 1852. The lumber for the house was hauled from East Texas by ox wagons. Walton named Sparta when it was settled.



THE HISTORIC CHARTER OAK OF BELL COUNTY

The bill was approved by Gov. Peter Hansborough Bell on Jan. 22, 1850. The bill provided that Isaac Standefer, chief justice of Milam County, should call an election within three months to select five special commissioners who would set up the county government.

Near the tree was the cabin of William F. Hill on the west bank of the Leon near where the river was crossed by the old military road between Austin and Fort Gates.

The oak tree was definitely located and named Charter Oak by George W. Tyler, Bell County historian. A marker was erected by the state on U. S. Highway 81 near the Leon Bridge in 1936 to mark the oak for those passing. The Daughters of the Republic of Texas had charge of the ceremony at the placing of the marker.

Later, a bronze plate on a native limestone marker was placed at the base of the tree to designate it as Charter Oak, Texas.

The first regular county commissioners and other officials were elected about Aug. 5, 1850. Chosen were John Danley, county judge; John C. Reid, county clerk; William Reed, sheriff; Stephen Goodman, treasurer, and John Taylor, James M. Cross, Peter Banta and James K. Blair, commissioners.

Records place the first regular commissioners court session at Oct. 8, 1850 when a license was is-

sued to D. R. Hill to operate a ferry on the Leon River.

James Anderson, Robert Childress and Henry Elliott became peace justices, and Matthews Givens, constable.

Bell County now had many of the trappings of settled country. There were courts and laws, records were kept and more and more a person had to consider the effect of his acts upon his neighbors, for neighbors were becoming more numerous.

Houses still were constructed mainly from native materials, logs or boards usually of oak, for the nearest pine was in Bastrop County. The first window glass is said to have come to Belton in 1854.

Marauding Indians remained a problem for years and, although their main desire was for horses, they would take anything they could carry away and usually killed anyone who got in their way. Many hair-raising stories have been told of unbelievable suffering resulting from these Indian raids and of the exciting adventures of the small bands of Rangers who tried to provide protection for the settlers.

Mail at first was carried on horseback with Swan Bigham and William S. Riggs being among the first riders. Then came hacks and stages for the main routes. A big overland stage carried passengers and mail from Waco to Austin via Belton and Georgetown in the 1850s. It would wheel importantly into town with its four beautiful horses and its high-sitting



OLD STAGECOACH INN

driver with his fancy whip and trimmings, thrilling boys both old and young. The stage would stop at the post office and the mail would be handed down. There usually was a good reader present who subscribed to one of the eastern newspapers. He would read the important news aloud to the crowd.

Belton was a stop on the main thoroughfare from the east and north and on down into Mexico until the railroads arrived.

Of course, the main concern of the first settlers was to avoid the ravages of the Indians and raise enough to keep themselves going. While they were doing this they also were working hard to construct some type of dwelling and outbuildings. As the country began to become more settled there was the desire to produce money crops.

Before the Civil War the nearest mart of consequence was Houston and long wagon trains, each vehicle drawn by as many as eight yoke of oxen,

would make the trip, carrying only non-perishable produce and bringing back a few of the niceties such as coffee, hardware and calico for a new dress and sunbonnet. The round trip took two or three months unless the rivers were up — then there was no telling how long it would be before the bolt of calico reached Bell County.

Cattle became the important money crop and the animals thrived on the grasses of the county. Sometimes a rancher would drive his own cattle to market and sometimes he would sell them to a professional drover. In addition to the northern markets, cattle were at times driven to New Orleans. Many a cowboy, after enjoying a holiday in New Orleans would board a steamer and live in high style during as much of the return trip as his money would allow.

Politics at first was a personal or regional thing but it was inevitable that, as a state in the United States, Texas and Bell County could not escape entanglement in national issues.

Newspapers played a big part in the political issues preceding the Civil War. Exerting influence was the Belton Independent, founded in 1857 by Andrew Marschalk Sr., and later passing to the control of E. W. Kinnan. The Belton Democrat, published by James W. White and edited by John Henry Brown was opposed to the "wait and see" policy of Houston. Allied with its policies were E. S. C. Robertson, son of the empresario and founder of Salado, D. R. Hill and W. S. Rather.

Among the Whig leaders were Judge X. B. Saunders, first mayor of Belton; Dr. A. J. Embree, John S. Blair, Joe D. Blair, John Danly and A. W. Richards.

Feeling ran deep. In addition to the all-out Whigs and Democrats there were several divisions of thought in both parties, especially the Democrats.

As in all political controversies, names or labels were tossed around loosely and caused unnecessary emotion. For instance during the controversy over



OLD SLAVE QUARTERS NEAR SALADO



HOLLAND ABOUT 1900



DEPOT IN TROY IN 1895—Bob Ridgell was the first depot agent in Troy when this depot was erected in 1882. Other agents included F. A.

Farnsworth, J. B. Stanton, E. B. Hill, Lee Zimmerman, a Mr. Waterman, W. K. Russell and Hill Winfrey.

ratification of the secession proposal a public debate was arranged at Aiken between John Henry Brown, the secession champion, and Col. Alonzo Beeman, known as a Union supporter. Colonel Beeman pleaded eloquently for remaining in the Union and made prophetic statements as to the effects of secession.

A part of the crowd became angry and almost did him violence, but he was protected by his neighbors, most of whom disagreed with his beliefs. Major Brown took no part in the demonstration and expressed his regrets.

When the South did enter the conflict, Colonel Beeman, though born and reared in the North, supported the South which was now his "country." He was too old for military service but his two sons promptly volunteered. Many a person was thus torn between conflicting loyalties but had to do what he thought was best even if it meant going against his own family.

On the day of a company's departure for the front the outfit would line up in parade formation and there would be long, emotional speeches. A young lady would present the commander with a beautiful silk flag. All of the families, friends and neighbors would be at the sentimental gatherings with, no doubt, some advisors who had fought in the war for Texas independence.

During the war the experience of the old-timers came in handy as the normal supply and variety of consumer goods dwindled. Many stores closed, some because the owner had gone to war and others because stocks were depleted. Once again the settlers were called upon to use their own devices to insure an existence.

There was a partial return to the old days of doing without or making at home. Shoes, clothing, tools and furniture were made in the neighborhood with

each person doing what he knew best. Barley brews and other substitutes often passed for coffee. Truck gardens were lovingly cultivated and spinning wheels were pulled out of the loft and pressed into service.

Communities organized to help families whose menfolk were not on hand to attend to the chores. Small boys and girls assumed some of the responsibilities of adulthood at a much earlier age than had their brothers and sisters. Practically all building and civic progress was at a standstill.

Finally the war was over and the men started trickling home, generally to be besieged with such questions as "Have you seen my son?"

For a period, governmental affairs were in a somewhat confused state. The general story of Reconstruction in the South is too well known to go into here but briefly. Suffice it to recall that the returning soldiers, in most cases, came home to poverty, hard work and a rundown community. Most of them accepted the challenge and dug in to improve their lot.

Former community leaders or young men who would have developed into leaders were no longer eligible under the law to hold public offices and the local citizenry was disenfranchised. This situation worked to the advantage of some who were not of leadership caliber but obtained high positions. Many of the carpetbaggers and scalawags were men of such slight worth that under ordinary conditions they never would have held any position of responsibility.

Only one specific instance of Reconstruction treatment will be mentioned, and that because it was county-wide. A judge with the aid of troops collected all property that had been connected with the Confederate government and returned it to Austin where the judge received one-fourth of the loot for his efforts. Included in the collection were supplies that



BRIDGE ACROSS LITTLE RIVER

had been gathered by the county for support of troops and families of soldiers. Also, taken was anything that had been captured by Confederate soldiers during their service. Horses and mules, often old and broken, needed for making crops were confiscated. Judge Tyler in his history tells of this in detail and backs it up with copies of correspondence between the contractor-judge and a special agent for the U. S. Treasury Department.

It would be natural to confiscate all stores which might have been used in an insurrection and perhaps other things that had been stolen and were not needed for immediate relief or of suffering, but one might doubt that the administration's intent had been to extend such "grabbing" to working horses, bits of uniforms needed to keep out the cold and food needed for hungry mouths.

Bell County began its comeback in 1874 when Gov. Richard Coke and other Democratic officials were inaugurated at Austin. Self-government returned with the regime.

After the war there was a steady immigration to the county and other Texas areas from the southern states which had been hit hard by the conflict. Bell County's population began to mount.

Until about 1875 when the barbed wire fence and windmill came on the scene the chief occupation of Bell County residents had been stock raising. The two innovations enabled farming to spread over the region, despite some pessimists who predicted it would not be practical.

With the problems of fencing and water solved and the coming of the railroad, farming was possible and a new rush of immigrants flooded the area. The new settlers came from the lower counties of Texas and from all of the southern and many western states.

This also was the period in which the story of the county began to become secondary to that of the towns within the county as they began to grow and

expand. Industry became important and the activities of the towns were the activities of the county.

Records show that in 1890 the county population stood at 33,377 and 10 years later had swelled to 45,535. Probably the most significant growth took place during the period from 1900 to the outbreak of World War I. Good roads better communications, improved schools and sound county and city governments developed. The war retarded only briefly this growth and from the end of that war to the beginning of World War II the county underwent continuous modernization.

This progress continues today as the county paces ahead in the modernization program and new industries and activities are constantly activated.

The huge military installation of Fort Hood has been a boon to the county and has made necessary expansion of facilities and expanded business never before envisioned.

For an area to make gains during wartime and consolidate the gains and strengthen them is quite a chore, but Bell County did just that. The Belton Dam project, the permanence of Fort Hood, continued medical facility expansion and projection of modern super-highways have meant the difference. These ventures made Bell County attractive, stimulated business and created a need for large amounts of construction.

The vision, enterprise and determination of Bell County leaders led the way to consolidation and expansion of these gains. It was the same process which in 1941 and 1942 resulted in location of Hood and McCloskey in this area. Frank Mayborn, Dr. A. C. Scott Jr., Guy Draper, J. E. Woods, Byron Skelton and Hammond Moore of Temple, representing the Chamber of Commerce military affairs and Brazos committees, and Roy Sanderford of the Belton



A COLD DAY IN THE COUNTY SEAT



SPARTA BLUFF, NORTH OF SPARTA

Chamber of Commerce, are among the many who have received much credit for making the gains possible. Killeen, Gatesville, Cameron, Lampasas and McGregor joined in the movement and added weight where it counted.

With the end of World War II the county leaders looked into the future and decided that at least four major projects were vital — the Belton Dam, permanence of Hood, permanent use of McCloskey facilities and the super highway through the county. It is doubtful that any of these projects would be in their present state without the co-operation and work of all.

The campaign for the Belton Dam was typical of the committee's efforts. The project had existed on paper since 1940 but in 1946 still was not accomplished. The leaders went to work and their efforts are reflected in the huge reservoir for conservation, flood control, water supply and recreation.

Other examples of concentrated effort are the Bob Poage steam-electric power plant on the Leon adjoining the city limits of Temple. This 11,500 kilowatt electricity generation plant, constructed at a cost of \$4,000,000, is a part of the federal rural electrification program. Still another example is the Leon River Reservoir designed to provide storage for more than 1,000,000 acre-feet of water (about 325,-850,000,000 gallons), an ample supply for industrial expansion in years to come.

Not quite so overpowering and visible, still very important, are the small gains made in the county. Gains which supplement and enhance the big projects and form a sound basis for community development.

The assets of the pioneer — vision, courage, faith— have been constantly recurring in Bell County down through the years. Today they are streamlined to meet the most modern era in all times but they are functioning in a co-operative manner which insures the future of the county and its residents.



J. Q. THOMPSON HOME—This residence was built in 1890 on a high hill less than a mile east of Troy. It is known as the "House of Eight Gables." The house has porches on all sides (eight in all) and has four fireplaces, 35 windows and 20 outside doors.



BELTON

Belton, county seat of Bell and oldest town in the county, was founded in 1850 as Nolanville (sometimes spelled Nolansville) on a 120-acre townsite donated by Mrs. Matilda (Connell) Allen on Nolan Creek.

At the time it was little more than a spot in the imagination of the men and women who were present. Since then it has conquered adversity and distress and — although bogged down on the road of progress many times — has been able to always recoup and go on to build a firmer foundation for a modern society.

Special commissioners were chosen to select the site for the county seat and, after much controversy and many site suggestions, the 120-acre grant was chosen. Location of the county seat and running of the county boundary lines were done under the direction of the five commissioners. The center of the county is about two miles southwest of the county seat toward the Lampasas River.

Groves of live oak, elm, hackberry, cedar and other trees spotted the valley in which the townsite was established and animal life and vegetation were abundant in the early days.

The first sale of town lots in Belton is reported to

have been held Aug. 26, 1850 under the direction of the special commissioners. The first building erected in 1850 was a crude, clapboard structure put up by A. T. McCorkle.

The building housed the first blacksmith shop in the town and was operated by County Judge John Danley — and thus it did double duty as a blacksmith shop and the first courtroom.

Merchandising got its start in the infant frontier settlement when John Pain set up a shop on Water Street below Judge Danley's place. John Henry is said to have put in the first saloon, a barrel of whiskey and a tin cup under a big oak tree. Mrs. Sarah Lawler furnished board for the carpenters who labored to build the town.

Life was hard as the settlers and workers lived in the open and cooked on the ground.

As time went by, grading for better construction was first done on the north side of the square while the south side was reserved for saloons. It didn't take the latter side long to gain the name of "Smokey Row." In subsequent years the quaffing business shifted to the east side and became known as "Rat Row."

Others among the early-day merchants were Stackpole and Kruger and James Roberts. A Mr. Miller of Lockhart started the first hotel on the west side of the square and later sold it to a Mr. Hall. James Lambert put in the second blacksmith shop. E. E. Stewart is credited with building the first frame home and Isaac Jalonie constructed the first stone house.

Belton, by being the county seat found itself in the somewhat unusual position of having a tailor-made business and civic life ready practically as soon as the machinery of government was put into action.

The first courthouse was a 16 by 18-foot building of native materials except for shutters, facings and casings of doors and windows which were made of pine. The building was constructed by Thomas D. Havens at a cost of \$199 and was ready for the six-day session of court which opened Feb. 17, 1851.

Six years later the second courthouse, a two-story native limestone, cedar and oak structure, was built. The building was about 50 by 60 feet with four rooms below and a courtroom and jury rooms on the top level. The building cost about \$17,000. Formal dedication and acceptance by the commissioners court was held Feb. 20, 1860 and this building served until 1883 when the needs of the county dictated a new and enlarged structure.

Cornerstone laying ceremonies were held June 24, 1884, with Masonic ceremonies by the Grand Lodge of Texas, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, under auspices of Belton Lodge No. 166.

A. J. Rose, past grand master of the grand lodge, presided, and Rev. William Carey Crane, president of Baylor University at Independence was orator.

The building was completed May 30, 1885 and the limestone and cement structure cost \$65,000.

In 1898 it was necessary to spend several thous-

and dollars fireproofing record offices. Over the years remodeling was undertaken as the space situation demanded and the population increased.

Remodeling and modernization on a large scale was begun in 1949. The courthouse dome and clock were removed and the interior was vastly changed. The question of removing the dome aroused considerable public comment but the trend toward modernization prevailed.

The virtually useless basement of the courthouse was enlarged and converted into modern offices, an elevator was installed, offices were enlarged and re-located. Winter and summer air-conditioning and complete refinishing of the interior walls also were included in the modernization project.

Even in the early days the need for a jail was not overlooked and the first one of hewn logs with sheet iron between them was put up in 1854. The jail was located about a block from the courthouse on Pearl Street. A rock jail was not erected until many years later.

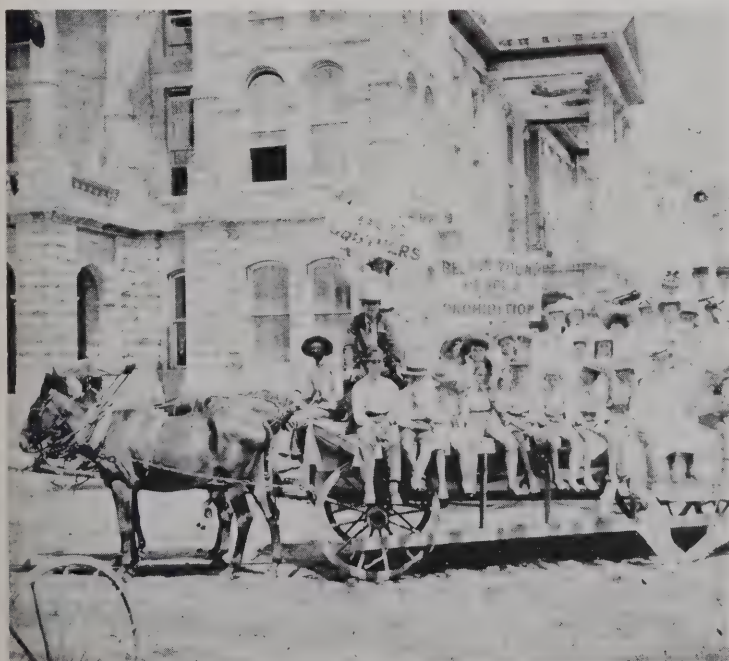
Belton was described as the only town in the county in 1859 and boasted a population of about 300. A year later the City of Belton was incorporated with a population of about 500. Judge X. B. Saunders was the first mayor and Capt. H. E. Bradford was the second.

Saunders was a native of Columbia, Tenn., who had come to Belton in January of 1855. He had received his law degree and been admitted to the bar in Nashville, Tenn., in 1852. In 1853 he was editor of the San Antonio Sentinel and the following year taught school at Prairie Lea. After his service as mayor, Saunders continued in the law practice at Belton until his death on July 29, 1909.

At the close of the Civil War the southerners particularly found themselves destitute commercially as well as in many other ways. The stock business furnished most of the means of income and with the extension of the railroad west to Abilene, Kan., large herds of cattle were driven to the shipping point.

This became an established custom and the trail was known as the Chisholm Trail. Its route passed through Belton and during that era the huge clouds of dust swirling into the sky to announce the approach of a trail herd were a common sight. The herds approached the town from the south and Nolan Creek was forded at a point about where the rodeo park is located.

Merchants who helped to rebuild the town and replenish their own fortunes soon after the war included Miller, Chamberlain and Company (two brothers, William A. and J. Z. Miller); H. C. Denny, John C. Henry, S. W. Wybrants and Company, McWhirter and Venable, Dr. J. W. Embree, Embree and Miller, Embree and Keyes, John H. Powers, Constantine Hardeman, Long and Reese, Pendarvis and Reese, Potts and Brother, Norman Austin and Son, Reed, Methvin and Bigham, Wright and Hughes,



FIGHTING FOR A CAUSE



ONE OF THE OLDEST—Smith & Peyton was one of the oldest firms in Belton. At the time of this picture, presumed to have been made at the

turn of the century, Smith & Peyton had two stores, each 75 by 100 feet. R. L. Henderson purchased the firm in 1914.



BUSY PLACE IN 1870s—This building at Central Avenue and East Street was a familiar meeting place during the early years. The upstairs

housed the law offices of A. M. Monteith in 1873. On the ground floor was the popular book store and drug business of Hunter & Freeman.



BELTON AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

Ellis Brothers, E. Sinclair, M. E. and S. W. Miller, McGuire and Son, T. E. Smith and Bro., J. Belinger, John Q. Allen and Company, Julius Tobler and Ed Rancier.

During the 1880s railroad building was an important project throughout the nation and the experience which Belton residents had in gaining a line has lived down through the years, sometimes the subject of white-hot disputes.

Two lines had been proposed for the county in the early 1870s and actually were surveyed but the depression of 1873-79 made the building impossible. In the meantime, the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe had been organized and slowly was pushing from the Gulf northward.

On May 15, 1878 Bell County commissioners passed an order exempting the line from payment of all county taxes for a 10-year period on condition that it extend its facilities to Belton within two years. The road failed to meet the time limit and the deadline was extended another two years.

The end of the line had reached to the eastern edge of the county near the Knobs by the spring of 1880 when company officials informed Belton that funds had run low and that the road would stop unless substantial assistance was forthcoming. On June 12, 1880 at a public meeting the Santa Fe spokesmen submitted to the people a proposition to complete the road to Belton by March 1, 1881. Conditions of the proposal were that the company be donated right of way 200 feet wide through Belton and Bell County, that depot grounds in Belton be provided and that \$75,000 be raised. The people accepted and a committee was appointed to canvass for the donation and secure the right of way.

One of the railroad officials, it is said, stated at the meeting that the terminus of the road would remain at Belton for at least two years. This created

enthusiasm among the residents who could envision Belton as a center of transportation and commerce.

This is Judge Tyler's observation in his history: "What did the Santa Fe Company then do? In July 1880 it abandoned both routes already surveyed and located the road on another survey much further north, by way of old Birdsdales, some seven or eight miles northeast of Belton. Then turning sharply to the west, almost at a right angle, it crossed the Leon and entered the corporate limits of Belton on its north boundary line about 400 feet west of the northeast corner of the city limits, ran about 40 feet inside the corporate limits for about 2,000 feet, then turned outside the city again. It did not demand of the citizens any depot ground within the town nor did it locate the depot within half a mile of the county courthouse, as its charter required it to do. The company placed the depot some 350 yards from the corporate limits, over a mile from the courthouse on land which the company had already acquired."

The town of Temple began to form and the line was extended to Fort Worth. Company shops were placed in Temple.

This, quite understandably, had a marked effect upon the people of Belton. Most of the subscribers paid off, but some balked and litigation developed. In a test case the railroad recovered judgment.

Both Judge Tyler and the Belton Journal in its 1950 centennial edition set out that they did not blame the residents of Temple (for there was no Temple at that time) nor do they point the finger of blame at present railroad management for the switch. But they do emphasize that the residents of Belton co-operated with the railroad and fulfilled their commitments.

The Belton citizens came forward in 1881 with a donation of \$30,000 and secured construction of a branch line of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas from



COTTON SEASON MEANT MUCH ACTIVITY IN CITY STREETS



NOLAN CREEK ON A RAMPAGE



COURTHOUSE IN OLD DAYS—OPERA HOUSE AT THE BACK



RECENT VIEW OF COURTHOUSE

Echo, three miles south of Temple, to Belton. The station was located about three blocks from the courthouse.

Records reflect that in 1890 Belton had a fire department, sewers valued at \$1,000, Baylor Female College, three wholesale grocers, three hotels, an opera house and a flouring mill. The Belton Electric Light Company began operations in 1889 with juice for 600 lights. The Belton Compress, capitalized at \$100,000, was built in 1883. The Belton Oil Mill was constructed in 1890.

The city's fire department is said to have been organized in 1883 with George W. Tyler as chief. This was a bucket brigade and the first piece of equipment was the hand-pulled reel cart. The first man to reach city hall got the coveted place at the handle of the car, so it was to the fireman's advantage to answer the alarm rapidly.

H. B. Savage Sr. was the second chief, E. Sinclair the third and I. B. Warren probably was the fourth. The latter served for more than 30 years. He was instrumental in building a strong department with the best equipment available.

During his tenure the horse-drawn hook and ladder truck, reel truck and first mechanical equipment were purchased. The first motor vehicle, in the department, was purchased in 1911. In 1920 a pumper truck was added.

Just before the turn of the century, banks were numerous in the growing town. They included the Belton National Bank, Citizens Bank, H. C. Denny and Company Bank and the Thomas Yarrell Savings Bank.

Belton has had many floods in its time, but probably one of the worst and the one by which residents still mark time, was the inundation of 1913 which destroyed 15 homes, damaged scores more and took

the lives of five people.

An account in the Belton Journal of Dec. 11, 1913 reports the horrors of that night when a 30-foot wall of water on the Nolan cascaded into town. All methods of alarm possible were used to warn the residents but despite the warning, many just barely escaped with their lives. Five others didn't.

All three of the city's bridges were washed away and communication with the South Side was cut off. A cable line was hastily devised across the waters to the isolated South Side. Food was rushed across because there were no groceries on that side. Later bodies were towed across the temporary lifeline.

Stanley Hunter superintended the installation of the cable and was the first one to cross the stream on it. The process of supplying food and medicine to the area continued on the cable line until the water receded so that residents could cross the stream.

After the flood the grim task of cleanup immediately was started and again Belton residents rose to the job and helped fashion a better community.

Through two wars the county seat continued to develop, at times somewhat static because of economic or agricultural conditions, at other times making rapid strides because of the same conditions.

Belton leaders always have sought to look ahead and forge a firm basis for their city. As industry was attracted to the area the demands have multiplied for the city and in each case the leaders have attempted to solve the problems as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Today Belton still stands as the county seat of Bell but through the process of progress and modernization is a far cry from the days when the main concern of the residents was just where to place the stake to start laying out the town.





A BIG TIME—This photograph, taken sometime before 1904, certainly proves that the enthusiasm with which Belton celebrates the 4th of July is nothing new. These events featured such things as a sham In-

dian battle, a firemen's race, parades, picnics and plenty of good eats and visiting. Note folks on rooftops and utility poles. Building in foreground is an information booth.



JACK G. (JACK) WHITE AND HIS STYLISH RIG ABOUT 1905



ALL DRESSED UP—The Belton firemen donned their best uniforms for this picture about 1900. I. B. Warren was chief at the time and the hook

and ladder cart was relatively new. The horses were described as "little but fast." The department was organized in 1883.



CELEBRATING—This picture was taken at the celebration marking the addition of a new pumper truck to the fire department. Seated on the fender of small truck is Mrs. J. W. Gillam, the former Dorothy Hamner, who was mascot of the department. At steering wheel in small truck is Neal Porter with Dude Savage beside him, next is Tommy Nai-

smith, Andrew Embree and A. G. Smith. Fire Chief Frank Hamner is astride the motorcycle with Ed Kirchner in side car. J. G. (Red) House is driver of the large truck and Jake Cochrum is sitting beside him. A. D. Cheatham is standing to right of truck. On truck are Fred Shea, Ben Hamner, Ted Froderman and Stanley Littleton.



BELTON CELEBRATION PORTRAYS EVOLUTION OF TRANSPORTATION



"TRADES DAY" IN BELTON—PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE COURTESY F. W. BARKLEY



"WHATCHA STARIN' AT?—Can't a feller enjoy a cold one with a pal?"
This guy should be in favor of the new, larger size. The annual Belton

rodeos each 4th of July have become a tradition and attract visitors from
afar.—Rodeo photos by Louis James





BELTON DAM AND RESERVOIR

Belton Dam and Reservoir was built for flood control and conservation but Bell County residents have found that it also provides a beautiful and interesting recreation center.

Construction on the project, built by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers on Leon River, a Brazos River tributary, began in 1949 and was completed in 1954 at a cost of \$13,500,000. Fort Hood and Killeen both obtain water from the lake and a portion of the capacity is reserved for use by industry and agriculture.

The project provides 887,000 acre-feet of storage capacity for flood control. (One acre-foot equals one acre covered one foot deep).

A total of 125,700 acre feet of the reservoir storage capacity has been allocated to water conservation. The water stored in this space may be used for municipal, agricultural and industrial purposes.

The earth embankment dam is a rolled-fill structure, 3,800 feet long. Stone riprap protects the upstream face of the embankment from erosion.

Outlet works for the release of flood water consist of a reinforced concrete structure with three intake openings, each controlled by an electrically operated gate, 7 by 22 feet. Flood waters are discharged through the base of the embankment by a conduit 22 feet in diameter and 790 feet long.

An emergency spillway for the passing of still greater flood waters without danger to the dam is provided. The spillway is 1,300 feet long and runs along the left abutment of the embankment.

The reservoir areas are open to the public and yearly thousands of water enthusiasts flock to the lake to enjoy swimming, boating, fishing, hunting and other outdoor recreation.

Co-operative agreements have been entered into between the Engineers and the cities of Temple, Belton and Killeen for the development of numerous park sites on the beautiful lake.

Overnight accommodations are available at the lake and at the many communities in the vicinity.



RECREATION, A BY-PRODUCT OF CONSERVATION





THE BELTON JOURNAL

The Belton Journal is the oldest newspaper and the oldest business in Bell County.

Since its first edition, which appeared Jan. 6, 1866, it has been in continuous publication, absorbing two other newspapers and surviving two fires, in a town which has been called "the graveyard of newspapers." This designation may be due to the death of 13 of the 14 newspapers which have been established in Belton, flourished for a time, and passed into oblivion — two absorbed by The Journal.

The first publication to appear in Belton and Bell County was "The Independent" in 1857, seven years after the town was established. It supported Sam Houston, the independent candidate for governor of Texas, and carried an account of a speech he made in Belton under some large trees where the post office now stands. "The Independent" was so strong, especially in the northern part of the county, that Houston sentiment predominated in that area.

In 1860 the Know Nothing party, an outgrowth of a split in the Democratic Party, started publication of "The Belton Democrat." It was opposed to Houston, who was opposed to secession, and ad-

vocated states rights. The Democrat was short-lived, and vanished from the scene as did a number of other publications, among them The Courier, The Reporter, The Sunday Morning Call and The Texas Farmer, which, however, enjoyed a rather long period of publication after moving to Dallas. It was the organ of the Farmers Grange, started in Salado in those early days.

Five papers had come and gone, more or less, when in 1866 J. T. Longino arrived in Belton with a wagon load of equipment purchased in Waco and freighted by wagon to Belton, to establish The Belton Journal. It was hand-set, of course, but was sent out to cover a large field in its circulation.

Longino was soon joined by his step-father, Maj. James H. Davenport, who later purchased full interest in the paper. He served as its editor, and Longino was head of the mechanical department. This arrangement went on until Major Davenport was elected to the state Senate. Longino, in the meantime became a lawyer, and the paper was sold to Capt. J. G. Batte. Longino stayed on as head of the mechanical department until such time as Captain

Batte's son, Tom, (after 1879 known as Dr. L. T. Batte) came to join his father in the publication of The Journal.

In 1874, W. S. Hunter came to Belton from Gatesville to head the mechanical department of The Journal. (He later became one of Belton's leading druggists.) Hunter stated, with considerable pride, that his salary of \$15 per month was higher than that of the Denny bank cashier, who, up to that time, had been the highest salaried man in Belton.

On April 1, 1883, Hunter, in company with George C. Robinson of Waco, purchased the newspaper from Captain Batte. Robinson later became sole owner, and in 1886 moved the plant to part of what was then known as the Brown Sales Company building. Here The Journal began its third decade of work, history and circulation, remaining in this building until it was destroyed by fire in 1898.

Without equipment, Robinson bravely bought out The Reporter, which had succeeded The Courier, and there arose from its ashes on East Street the joint publication of The Journal-Reporter, which flourished for a time.

In the years between 1886 and 1898, there lived in Belton C. H. Wedemeyer (later known as Prof. Wedemeyer when he established the Wedemeyer Academy), who was a former lecturer at Baylor Female College, Independence, and also at Baylor University, Waco. In company with J. F. Crouch, he purchased The Journal-Reporter soon after the 1898 fire. This partnership continued until 1911, when O. P. Pyle purchased the paper, which in that same year absorbed The Bell County Democrat. The name was shortened to The Belton Journal, with the Bell County Democrat, on its masthead, which arrangement continues to this day.

Again in 1914, The Journal burned to the ground, strangely enough on the spot where it stands in its home today. Pyle then moved to the Guffy building on North Main and continued publication until 1925, when he sold the paper to C. C. Watson of Midland.

In 1927, F. B. Russell acquired The Journal from Watson and it has remained in the Russell family since. Upon his death in 1943, The Journal was leased by his widow and son, James H. Russell, to Tommy Cox and Oliver Beall, who published it until 1946, at which time it was bought by J. Wed Reid of Commerce. Reid's health failed early in 1947, and the paper was re-purchased by the Russells, mother and son, and since that time James H. Russell has been its editor.

The Journal had never had a home it could call its own until 1956, when the Russells purchased the site of its former home on West Central Ave., built a new building 40x100 feet, which now houses the newspaper plant, a variety of printing equipment, including four job presses for handling several publications other than The Journal, and a large amount of job printing.

THE SANCTIFICATIONISTS

One of the strangest religious movements, a movement which has attracted national attention, took place in Belton in the form of the Sanctificationists.

The movement was the result of endeavors of Mrs. George M. McWhirter who, with her husband, came to Bell County from Tennessee in 1855. The couple settled first on Salado Creek near what is now the Armstrong community and was instrumental in organization of Live Oak Church. Both were members of the Methodist Church.

The husband came out of the War Between The States with the rank of major and moved his family to Belton about 1866. He engaged in the mercantile business and had an interest in operation of a flour mill.

After the war, there was no denominational church building in Belton and various denominations held services on alternate Sundays in the county courthouse.

Mrs. McWhirter broke with her church when, in 1870, the Methodists erected a building and proposed to organize a Methodist Sunday School instead of the union one which had existed. The husband had been superintendent of the union school for some time and continued to work with this group.



CENTRAL HOTEL

Mrs. McWhirter and her following, mostly ladies, then banded together in a religious group, holding prayer meetings in homes and gradually expanding the breach with the church until they became segregated from all organized church groups.

Within 10 years the organization had grown in size which prompted the members to suggest construction of a non-sectarian meeting house. Mrs. McWhirter claimed to have had miraculous revelations in dreams and possession of divine authority for her actions. She reportedly claimed a divine com-

munication that she was "sanctified" and other members of her group said that through prayer they had received the same revelation regarding themselves.

So, the group became known as the "Sanctificationists."

It was Mrs. McWhirter who directed the group with a stern will, setting up laws which were inflexible. She ruled that no sanctified wife could be the wife of an unsanctified husband and vice versa.

This rule resulted in women leaving their mates and homes and going to live elsewhere, usually taking the children with them. History relates that many important Belton families were split over this belief. Generally the young girls stayed with the movement but the young men broke away and went out into the world. Thus, the organization soon developed into an almost all-female band.

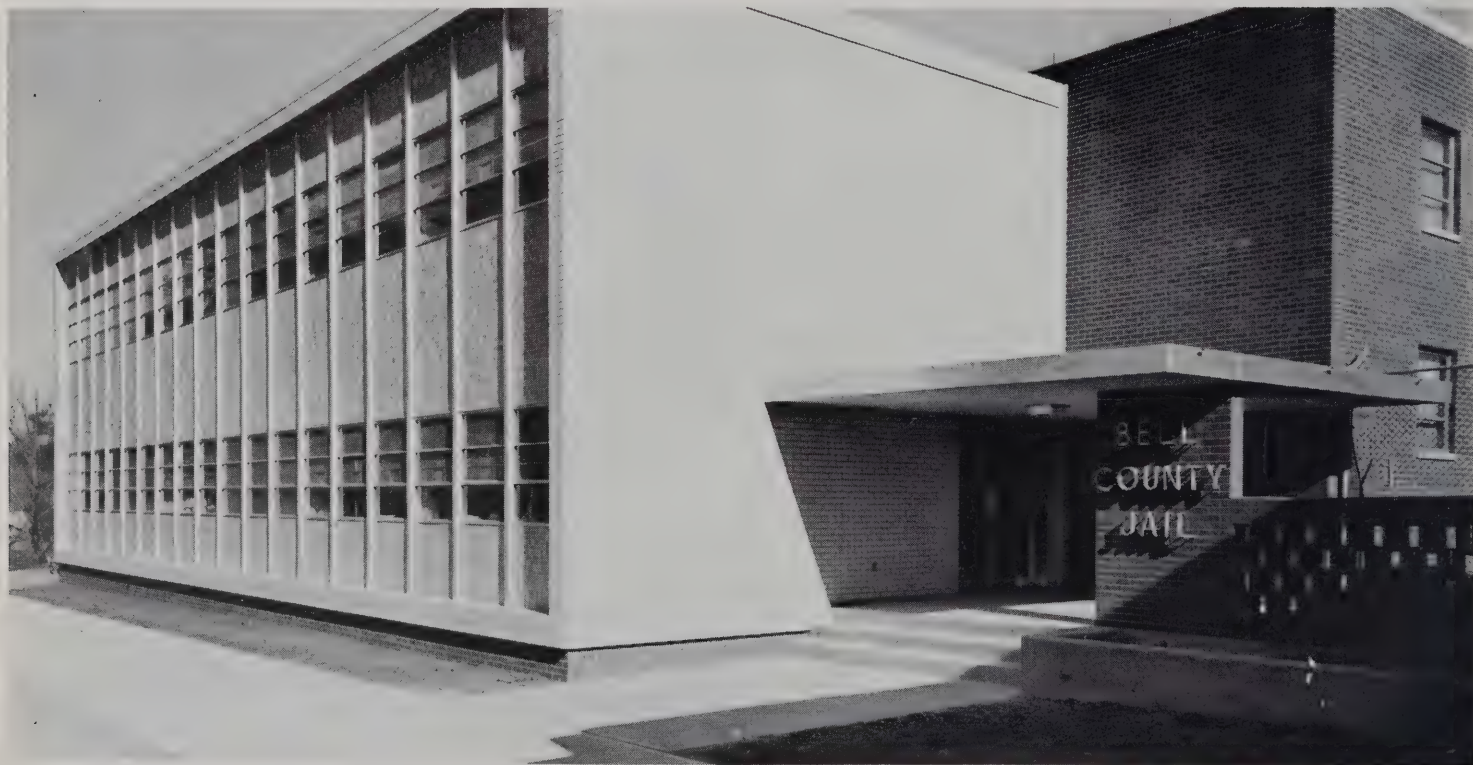
The organization had a common treasury with the members working to provide money for its financing. They opened a hotel in the old J. C. Henry home and later purchased an adjoining lot and built a large hotel known as the Central. This hotel was operated with members of the movement doing most of the work.

For a time the Sanctificationists leased and operated two hotels in Waco, but in 1899 they closed the Waco hotels and returned to Belton. The hotel in Belton later was sold and the group moved to Washington where they established and operated a hotel for several years. With the death of Mrs. McWhirter in New York in 1904 the movement began



to decline and over the years died out as an organized effort.

Major McWhirter, who for many years was tolerant of the organization but did not share his wife's views, died in 1887. During his late years he lived alone in a downtown building, away from the rigid rules of the movement.



NEW BELL COUNTY JAIL—RAY HUMBERT PHOTO



BUSINESS DISTRICT, LOOKING DOWN GRAY FROM AVENUE B

KILLEEN, A CHANGED COMMUNITY

Killeen, which received its name from a railroad official, had some turbulent times in the beginning and after functioning some 10 years without a government, turned to organization in 1893 as it incorporated and elected its first officials.

The first five elected officials were Mayor W. E. Hudson; Secretary-Treasurer W. B. Mitchell and Aldermen J. R. Dunn, E. M. Spencer and C. W. Ladwig.

J. B. Blair was appointed the town's first marshal.

The name Killeen was adopted after the settlement arose on the railroad and it was chosen in honor of F. P. Killeen, secretary of the Santa Fe. The signal for the Killeen station still is "F. P."

After the formation of the first government the problems began to arise, problems which are similar to those today but of less magnitude.

The five councilmen of 1893 represented less than 1,000 residents and the paid city employees numbered only one or two. The present council represents about 20,000 persons and sets policies for 97 employees.

The present city government has 68 powered vehicles and in 1957 operated on a budget of \$741,891.

The similarity of the problems of the early governments and the current ones is evident in council

meetings taken Aug. 25, 1893.

"Moved and seconded that the city council pay Mr. Bigham \$10 for surveying and we pay the marshal \$15 on his salary out of the first money coming into the treasury, and that warrants be ordered drawn for amounts."

And, even in those days, the petitions from the citizens were with the council. On Aug. 9, 1893 a petition signed by 30 persons was presented to the newly inaugurated council in behalf of T. H. Hairston.

The latter sought that 20 acres of land which he owned be excluded from the city limits. He pointed out that 15 acres of the land was in cultivation and the other five were used for pasture, orchard and residence. The council tabled the petition.

By 1908 the settlement's population had topped 1,000 and once again Killeen was incorporated but with the new title of "city of Killeen" and with new advantages offered cities of more than 1,000. The government was the mayor-council form.

A co-operating citizenry made progress easier, and streets were improved and a water system put into operation through this program. The co-operation even extended into the field of actual manual

labor. Residents of the city were assigned "street working days" under the supervision of an overseer. The "workers" were obligated in one of three ways which, if not met, could result in a fine.

Either the resident worked his assigned days, hired a substitute or paid a \$3 per year exemption fee.

The people of Killeen, who were using private water wells and cisterns, began to look forward to a city water works during 1911 and on Feb. 20, 1912 passed by a 74-14 margin a \$16,000 bond proposal. The system finally was installed in 1914.

Slowly at first, then with increasing momentum, the city grew to its present physical valuation of \$46,000,000.

The biggest momentum headache came in the 1940s when the city battled to meet the needs of the phenomenal growth of Killeen brought about by the establishment of Fort Hood.

The federal government furnished aid and streets and water facilities were improved to meet the immediate need.

The situation demanded a more modern and efficient type of municipal government and on March 3, 1949 in a special election the voters approved a new charter and the manager form of government.

Killeen has been served by four city managers, Ray Baca, W. E. Cook, Morgan White and John Sarris.

The present city hall building has an interesting background. The building was constructed in 1906 by F. M. Sapp and for a number of years it housed a furniture store and harness shop. Later it was used for an armory. During the early 1940s the city occupied the structure as a permanent headquarters. City business previously had been handled from officials' private homes.

The city, which began with an estimated 270 acres now encompasses more than 2,250 acres and is continuing to grow.

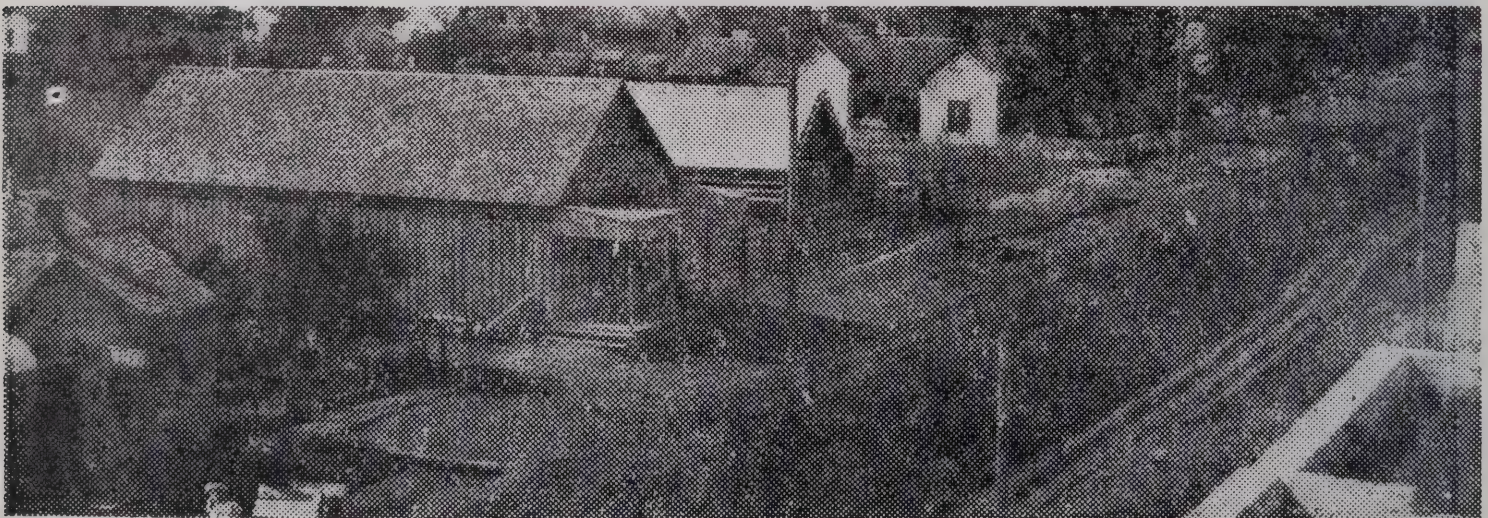


A PLACE TO REST—The California Hotel, established in 1883 by Capt. and Mrs. John R. Richardson, was the town's first hostelry. This picture was taken in the 1880s and shows Mrs. Richardson, in white, and her adopted daughter, Emma. Many a visitor lodged here for a spell.

Without the railroad, Killeen would not have been founded, but it also is true that without the caliber of the men who met that first train in the early spring of 1882 the town would not have survived.

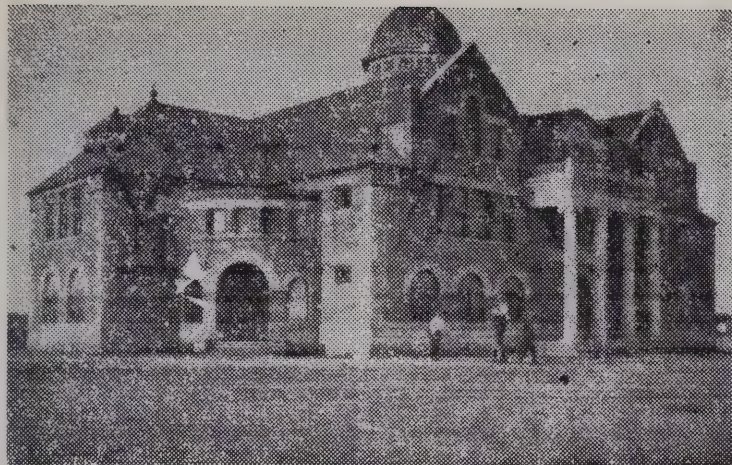
Those who lived in the town and the farmers and ranchers in the area were interdependent. Men such as C. W. Ladwig, merchant and rancher who owned most of the land south between the city limits and the Lampasas River, and A. J. Hoover, grandfather of Oveta Culp Hobby, large land owner southwest of the town with commercial and financial interest in the town, helped build it.

Names of others who helped build the dusty one street into a town are John Pace, the Blackburns, John Black, John R. Smith, the three Carter brothers, Ab Potter, the Grays, Will and Jim Manning, the



IN 1909—Stores and homes on the west side of Fourth Street looking north from Avenue C. The muddy street shown here was then known as

Main Street and it took much co-operation and hard work before the problems of mud and dust were reduced by the early settlers of Killeen.



FOURTH SCHOOL—This was Killeen's fourth school building erected in 1902 just north of where Avenue D School now stands. The building, which burned in 1923, was of red brick, trimmed in white stone. It was two and one-half stories and topped with an observatory-like dome. An addition was constructed to the building before it burned.

Blackwells, Jim Yancy, Lum Hubbard, Jim Stevenson, the Bays, the Polks, Stafford and Frys and Harkins.

Spencer Young and W. A. Chansor were large land owners with commercial business interests in town.

Through the early development of the town and until his death in the 1930s, R. M. Cole was one of the outstanding leaders in the town. He was among the first to move from Sugar Loaf to Killeen in 1882.

The town's business district in the days of infancy faced the railroad with the rough business houses spreading out along Avenue D and about two blocks north of the railroad on Fourth and Sixth Streets.

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The settlement became more and more important to the surrounding area and by 1886 was beginning to be recognized as a developing marketing center. By the turn of the century Killeen was well on its way toward being a major shipping center as the population and business section increased. Residential streets had taken form to just north of Rancier Street and generally ran one house to the block. Picket fences kept out the roving stock and made it possible to grow flowers and vegetable gardens.

By 1906 Killeen had arrived as a shipping and marketing center and so remained until the depression years when the bottom dropped out and the town was left in a spot. For 10 years the market remained down and the farmers, ranchers, and businessmen of the area suffered as the population decreased.

As a bustling farm community the town at one time operated five gins as cotton dominated the agricultural scene.

The gins, which hit their peak in the early 1920s were W. R. Burks Gin on Avenue G, Tom Adams Gin on W. Avenue D, Ed Saegert Gin on South Gray and O. H. Jost Gin on Avenue G. The Jost gin operated until 1947 when it was shut down because so little cotton was in cultivation.

By 1940 when the town was just emerging from the depression doldrums the population was down

to 1,265. Then came the Army and the almost unbelievable influx of residents demanding homes and top municipal facilities. This challenge was met as had all previous ones been met, with the leaders facing up to the tasks at hand and getting them accomplished as quickly as possible.

Today Killeen sits as the home city for the vast Army installation and the changes which have been accomplished stand as mute testimony of the ability and foresight of the civic leaders.

ROOM FOR PLAY

Conder Park, Killeen's major relaxation spot, has something to offer to practically anyone who wants to get out of doors.

The 30-acre tract in the southeast section of the city includes a baseball diamond, tennis courts, the municipal swimming pool, picnic tables, benches, barbecue pits and all types of playground equipment for the children.

The city purchased the site for \$15,000 from Sidney Young on May 23, 1950.

The park was named for Dennis Conder, who was killed while serving with the 77th Division during World War II. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ivy Conder.

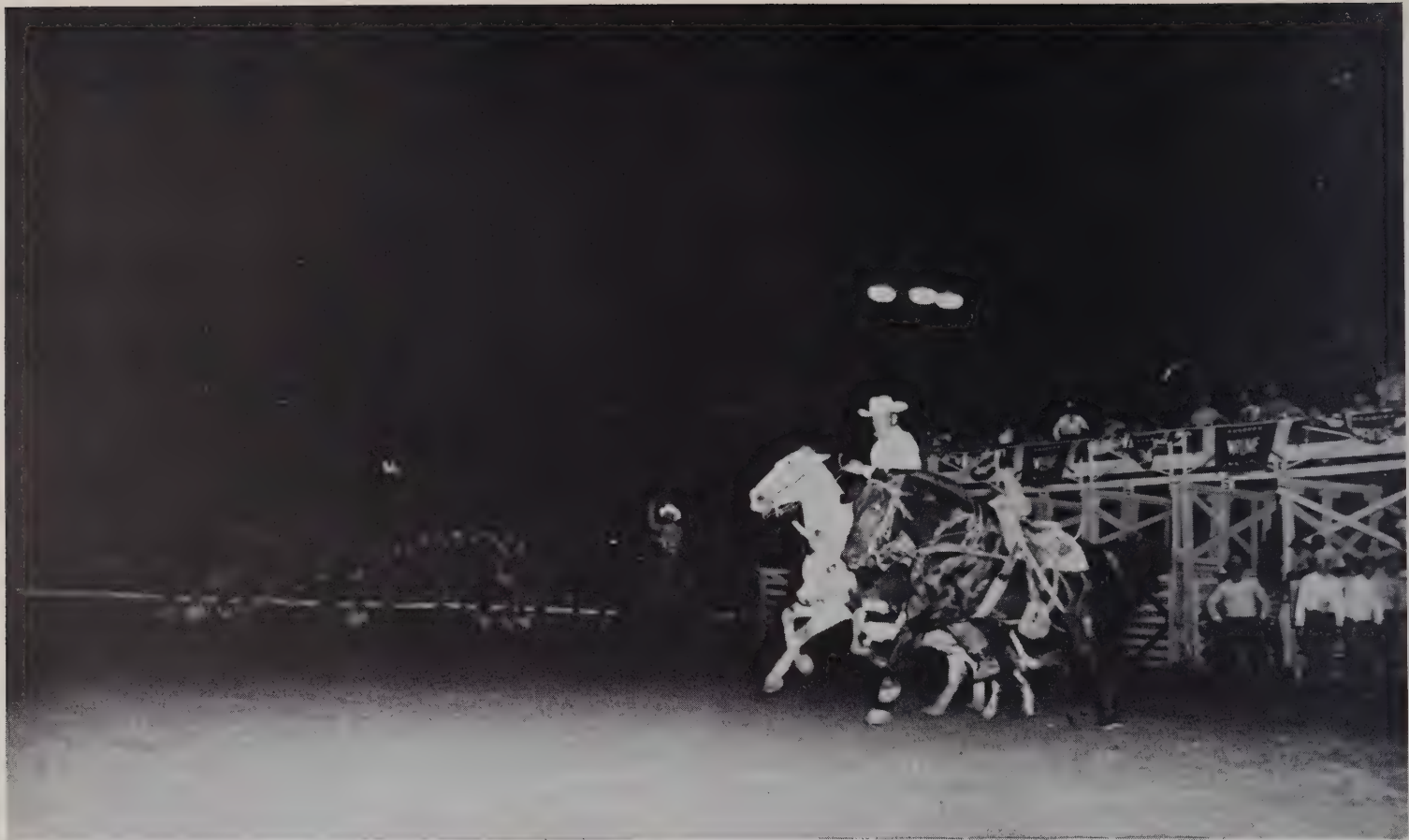
Development of the area has been aided by the Killeen Garden Club which has handled beautification. Garden Club members have spent many hours planting and keeping up the garden spots.

The Killeen Youth Coliseum and Killeen Youth Center are located in the park. The Coliseum was constructed by the Exchange Club and was built especially for the annual FFA - 4-H Junior Livestock Show. It also serves as a public meeting place and is available for private parties and activities.

The Youth Center is a project of the Xi Delta Omega Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi with the co-operation of the Parents Club.

The city also has Lions Park and Marlboro Heights Park, both dedicated as park areas in additions taken in by the city. The Killeen Lions Club operates Lions Park which is on Stewart Street in the northern section of the city. Marlboro Heights is in the southeast section of the city. Both parks provide recreational facilities and playground equipment.





THE ANNUAL RODEO IS AN EVENT WHICH DRAWS MANY VISITORS TO THE CITY



EARLY DAY SUGAR LOAF—This is one of the first pictures made of the Sugar Loaf Cemetery which was removed when Fort Hood was created. Standing are Thomas Elms and William Riggs, who as a baby survived

the Riggs family massacre by Indians. Sitting are Bob Chalk, John Blackburn and A. Lee. At left is tomb of William Riggs' parents. The year this picture was made is not definitely known.



PERMANENT 235-MAN BARRACKS IN TROOP HOUSING BELT

A PLACE TO TRAIN FOR WAR AND PEACE

Fort Hood, the sprawling military reservation which brought a complete new way of life to Killeen, was activated Sept. 18, 1942 as a tank destroyer training center and has been one of the most important installations in the Army complex as the country fought to keep its ideals and objects and bring peace to the unsettled world.

The installation has grown from its infancy to the finest armor training center in the world with a huge area for tank training. A rebuilding program in which old structures were razed to make way for permanent buildings has been a continuing project.

The camp was named for the famed Confederate general of the Civil War, John Bell Hood, and had as its first commander Lt. Gen. Andrew W. Bruce.

Initial training at the installation began April 29, 1942 when farmers and residents of the area were given notice in the newspapers of the opening of firing on the new ranges. The next day big guns of the tank destroyer units rolled across the country side and belched out their practice rounds.

Even in the early days, Camp Hood was a large reservation. The building of the camp was conducted by the Army engineers who supervised construction of buildings of all types, recreational facilities and hundreds of miles of roadways and utility lines.

The life of the camp, when first built, was expected to be from 10 to 15 years. As personnel began to jam in during the first days of organization and training, North Camp Hood was constructed as a theater-of-operations type installations with a life expectancy of from three to five years.

During its World War II peak the reservation was home for some 6,060 officers and 74,000 enlisted men who went through training there. During that time the federal government invested \$69,000,000 in the land and improvements.

Camp Hood, during World War II, was the home of the Tank Destroyer Center, Tank Destroyer Officer Candidate School, Tank Destroyer Advance Training Brigades, the OSC Regiment, Academic Regiment and the Student Regiment.

The tank destroyers' emblem, the black panther's face on an orange background, became well known not only in the Killeen area but across the entire world as units trained in Central Texas went into far lands to make military history.

The Tank Destroyer School, under the supervision of Brig. Gen. Hugh T. Maberry, trained several thousand officers and enlisted men.

During the Center's first year of operation, 4,800

second lieutenants graduated from the Officer Candidate School set up at Gatesville to speed the center's mission prior to the completion of facilities on the reservation.

Hundreds of officers were sent to the reservation for refresher courses and advanced training and other schooling.

The Training Brigade, from an initial strength of one tank destroyer battalion and one battalion of medium tanks, was expanded to a force of about 12,000 men.

In late 1942, preparations were made to complete the center and provide training for tank destroyer men from the time of induction to departure as members of a tactical unit.

Later, the reservation was enlarged by 50,000 acres and a portion of this area was purchased near the school in order to economize in time necessary to reach tactical areas.

The Infantry Replacement Training Center was organized March 10, 1944 to produce infantry training to prospective infantrymen. Operations did not slow at the end of the war and early in 1944 the famed 2nd Armored Division moved from Berlin, Germany to Camp Hood. The division remained at Hood until July 15, 1951 when it was returned to Germany.

The camp was named a permanent fort and designated Fort Hood on April 15, 1951. South Fort Hood had been retained at the close of World War II and a building program was begun there. Many of the temporary buildings have been replaced by permanent structures.

At the end of the war North Fort Hood was closed, most of the buildings sold and the land and other facilities retained for use by National Guard and Reserve units during summer training. The installation now is a tent camp which can accommodate about 12,000 men. It is used by the 49th Armored Division, Texas National Guard; 112th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Texas National Guard; 406th Engineer Brigade which is composed of reserve units from Texas and New Mexico; the 36th Infantry Division, Texas National Guard, and the 45th Infantry Division, Oklahoma National Guard.

In March 1951 the 1st Armored Division was re-activated at Fort Hood and trained thousands of replacements during the Korean conflict.

In April 1954, the 3rd Corps moved to Fort Hood from Camp Roberts, Cal. This was the Corps which was known as the Phantom Corps in its World War II battles across Europe.

On June 15, 1954 the 4th Armored Division was re-activated at Fort Hood and subsequently was replaced by the 2nd Armored Division.

Many of Killeen's basic business houses closed with the coming of the camp and residents found themselves faced with new methods, new demands and new occupations.

The huge military installation of 207,000 acres not only transformed the countryside, it changed living in Killeen as the long - time residents had known it. But the reservation also afforded a new economy to the area.



WAR GAMES AT FORT HOOD



BATTALION MOTOR REPAIR SHOPS AND HARDSTAND



LOOKING NORTHEAST OF NCO FAMILY HOUSING AREA



TEMPLE IN 1891

TEMPLE

The story of Temple is the story of a town which rose out of the prairie, sprawled out during the rough and ready boom days and gracefully matured into a refined city offering advantages to all residents.

It has suffered through times when gambling joints and saloons outnumbered dwellings, when the knife and gun were acceptable accessories of dress, and through other forms of adversity — but always it has been able to grow and gain strength to keep pace with progress.

The city had its start early in 1880 on a site which was owned by Jonathan E. Moore. It was Moore who in August 1880 sold some 187 acres of his land to directors of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad. The railroad sought the land for a construction camp for its line and it wasn't long before the rough camp began to spring up as the workmen moved in to transform the bald prairie into a settlement of sorts.

In the early summer of 1881 sale of lots was advertised and a large celebration was announced for June 29. On that day the inhabitants of the area flocked into the camp site from miles around to enjoy the free barbecue and show.

A large shed surrounded by a tall wire fence protected the women and children as they ate. Almost immediately some of the men sought out the whiskey barrels and it wasn't long before a festive, if somewhat alcoholic, mood hung over the gathering.

Lots were auctioned off, some as high as \$300, but averaging about \$150 each. Many of those who

attended the celebration expressed doubt that a town could grow on the prairie and questioned the advisability of building so far from a water supply. This problem — water — continued to plague the town for years to come.

Promoters of the town settled on the name of Temple, in honor of B. M. Temple who was at that time chief construction engineer for the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe.

On Jan. 18, 1882 a petition signed by 50 residents of the settlement was presented to County Judge W. M. Minyard asking that an election be held to incorporate the town. The election was held July 8 with only 119 votes cast, but the issue passed 61 to 58. J. W. Callaway was elected the first mayor.

Other early-day mayors included W. H. Carine, A. Lewy, Capt. L. R. Wade, Capt. William Carton and J. H. Daugherty. W. I. McMahon was the first city marshal and was followed by Green Pattison, S. M. Walker and William Taylor who held the post for 12 years.

Taylor later recalled the lusty days and stated that it was a full time job keeping a semblance of order as a large portion of the inhabitants were a rowdy, hard living group.

During 1882 the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad came through Temple and the young city really was on its way. When the Santa Fe made Temple a division point and erected its shops that added to the population and provided a stable payroll.

Two private schools were established in the sec-



THE SQUARE IN 1909—The “children’s statue,” a fond memory, is brought to life in this picture of the Temple square in 1909. In the

background is the standpipe which replaced the part-wood water tower which collapsed in 1890, bringing death and destruction.

ond year of Temple and in 1884 the first public school was organized. About this time churches began to appear.

In those early days, the streets were either dusty or muddy, depending on weather conditions, and apparently it was the mud which caused the most trouble. Oldtimers recall that the bottomless mud streets held prisoner many wagons and buggies, sometimes for months. Board planks provided side-walks but once the pedestrian stepped off them during the wet season he immediately became mired down. In derision some called the city “Mud” rather than by its correct title.

The infant town was composed of a sprinkling of box houses, lean-tos with awnings, clapboard shacks and tents as it began to spread out over a wide area. At that time Twelfth Street was the main street of Temple and today’s Main Street didn’t develop until the mid 1880s.

The first stone building, the oft-frequented Otto Saloon at First and Central, had the distinction of being the first stone building in Temple.

As noted previously, the water problem was of great concern, and as a matter of fact there often was a larger quantity of whiskey than water. The businessmen of the town had a well dug at First and Avenue A and this became the town well. However, it failed to produce an adequate quantity of water as the population increased.

Many residents purchased water for 25 cents per barrel while others put down their own wells or cisterns or depended upon water caught during rains.

Capt. Henry Smith drilled for the city two artesian wells, one on Knobb Creek and the other at a high point in the northwest section and these, like the previous one, soon proved inadequate. Then the Santa Fe threw up a dam across Bird’s Creek west of town and created Lake Polk which the city was allowed to use as a water source. This also proved insufficient and a move was made to get water from the Leon River.

After the water had been piped in and mains laid, the town had a source of water but lack of a filtering plant and settling basin caused a problem. At flood times the water coming from the taps would be more mud than liquid, it is reported. Finally, a filtering plant and settling basin was acquired.

Tramps were a constant menace during the early days of the town and it was the custom to round them up each night and escort them to the edge of town. Often the invaders would beat the officers back to the downtown area. William Taylor has recalled that at one time the Santa Fe provided a rail car and offered to pull it out of town when filled with tramps. He and his aides rounded up all the tramps they could and clapped them behind locked doors in the car. A large sign stating: “Live freight; Feed and water at Galveston” adorned the side of the car. Tay-

lor has said that he later received a letter from the Galveston police chief requesting that no more tramps be shipped to that city.

Almost with the start of the town a thirst for the printed word arose and W. D. Cox and J. S. Thompson founded the first newspaper, the Weekly Times, in 1881. Six years later J. F. Lewis established the Herald. In the meantime the Times had gone daily and in 1887 R. O. Gresham and John S. Perry established the Saturday Sun. In 1890 O. P. Gresham and Felix Venney founded the Temple Mirror which later was acquired by R. O. Gresham.

As commerce increased, the need for banking facilities loomed and P. L. and F. F. Downs opened the initial bank, The Bell County Bank, in 1882 with a capital of \$10,000.

The actual building of dwellings and business structures in Temple set a new pattern in construction of a city and today some of the oldest houses are located along the railroad track. These houses show the signs of a boom town. Some of them are quick-laid shanties with high ceilings and have the old-style shed rooms. Others are two-story box houses with sheet iron roofs.

One of the first hotels built in the town was the Stegall in 1882 at Sixth and Central. In 1893 W. H. Stegall and his wife built another at Central and Third. Other early hotels were the Martin, at Third and Avenue B, constructed about 1911, and the Harvey House which became famous as an eating



BUSINESSES OF EARLY 80'S—Shown are the Hodes and Veit dry goods and clothing store and the T. R. Hollingsworth hardware store. They were located approximately across the street from the present Mackey's Drug Store.



MAIN STREET STORES ABOUT 1885—Moyer and Swink were cousins aged about 21 years who decided to leave their homes in Pennsylvania, come west and start a shoe store. They bought tickets to Waco where it is said they decided to come to the new town of Temple upon an innkeeper's advice. To start things going in the new store they

stocked up on items which could be sold for a nickel, tea strainers and other gadgets. This was such a success that they continued to sell inexpensive items and became known as the Nickel Store. The store was wiped out by a fire in 1901 and Swink established the Swink Insurance Agency, a business still operated in 1958 by his daughter.

place. The Kyle was constructed in 1927.

Dressed rocks, granite, special bronze and brass adornment, red and white bricks and skewback masonry began to appear in the structures after the Leon River water was piped in.

The first city hall, to serve as a city hall, market house and auditorium, was erected in 1885 on the site of the present city hall. The structure burned in 1897.

Temple was from the beginning a town of fast growth as the railroads provided boom conditions and the town drew residents from other portions of the country. By 1890 the population had risen to 4,047. Belton, which had existed prior to Temple, had only 3,000 residents at that time.

By 1890 Temple had a number of thriving businesses, among which were the Temple Compress, Temple Oil Mill, Temple Blackland Plow Company, Temple Ice Factory, two bottling works, planing mill, steam wood chopping factory, grist mill, cigar factory, three cotton gins, a wholesale grocery, telephone and telegraph company and five building and loan associations.

Temple was continuing on the move.

It was during this same year that the city suffered one of its most spectacular tragedies. This occurred on Oct. 26, 1890 when the city's big standpipe crashed to the ground, washing away several homes and causing the death of one woman. The standpipe



ORIENTAL HOTEL, 1909, AT 520 S. 1ST

stood where the Kyle Hotel now is located.

Temple residents had the luxury of the first electric lights in 1891 when a small power company was formed. This operation later was taken over by Texas Power and Light.

In 1901 there still was not a paved street or brick or concrete sidewalk within the city and when wagons bogged down they often stayed mired until spring when they were dug out. During the winter of 1902 - 03 it rained for five months. It became necessary to transport the dead on a railroad car to the cemetery. There were no home deliveries and residents had to pack out their purchases.



AVENUE A



CENTRAL AVENUE AT MAIN—This picture was made about 1897 during the era of the saying, "You stick to Bell County in dry weather and Bell County will stick to you in wet weather." In the doorway of

Monitor Windmill are Y. Q. Baker and C. E. Bruner. Charley Baker is second to left of scales in black coat.



INSURANCE OFFICE, CIRCA 1895—Offices of Vaden and Strange were upstairs at 15 W. Ave. A. Reading to the right from unidentified man

at the left are Shelby Strange, Austin Strange and Larkin Strange. Contrast this to today's insurance offices.

From the very beginning health and sanitation had been major items of concern and it wasn't long before the basis of Temple's great reputation as a medical center began to be formed.

Cement sidewalks were laid in the town between 1905 and 1912 and from 1910 to 1912 each sidewalk was widened into the street on both sides. This caused a headache for city officials when wider autos demanded wider streets.

As the machine age advanced so did Temple and the unsightly and bothersome mud or dirt streets began to disappear as concrete and gravel took their place. Paving began in 1906 when Avenue A was topped from the Telegram Building to Main. In 1906-07 a portion of Main was paved. Residents, interested in transportation from the very first, formed in 1904 a firm, the Belton and Temple Traction Company, and an interurban line was constructed between the two towns. It was electrically operated and for years the central power station was located at Midway between the towns. Later this structure was abandoned and became the meeting place for the Ku Klux Klan.

Another rail venture spawned in Temple was the Temple and Northwestern Railroad chartered in 1909 to build from Temple to Gatesville, Hamilton and Comanche. The line was surveyed, right of way ob-

tained and even some grading started and track laid before lack of funds cancelled the project.

The city received "gasoline gas," actually acetylene gas, in 1906. The gas was well known for its explosive nature, a point proven two years later when the gas company was blasted out of existence. After that there was no gas until 1912 when the Temple Gas Company was formed.

The first telephone office was located on the second floor of the Bruner Building and by 1906 there were 500 subscribers.

By 1910 Temple recorded 10,993 residents and still was growing.

The city began getting its reputation as a soil conservation and agriculture research center in 1911 when the Blackland Experiment Station was established between Temple and Belton. This station was moved three miles south of Temple in the fall of 1927 and from it has come a wealth of information which has been of value to agriculture. In 1939 when the Texas State Soil Conservation Board was formed, its headquarters was located in Temple and in June 1942 state headquarters of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service was established in Temple.

During the early part of the 1900s Temple was ever on the move, swelling this way and that, making progress here and there and building for the future.



TEMPLE FLOWER SHOW—Here are some of the participants in the junior division of a flower show held in Temple in 1895. The first Shetland ponies are said to have been brought into the county by Joe Zack Miller of the Belton banking firm of Miller-Hall Company. At the far left is Joe Zack Miller Jr., now vice president of a Kansas City bank.

Will Dodge, the little boy with the big hat in the foreground, is now a vice president of the Texas Company living in New York. Next to him is Thomas C. Hall of Temple. Girl on the far right is Mr. Hall's sister Pearl, now Mrs. Bush Wofford. To her left are Avis Cole and Hulén P. Robertson Jr.



EARLY MAIN STREET

Voters decided in 1922 in favor of the home rule form of government operating with commissioners, one of whom was mayor, and a city manager. The first Temple city manager was H. J. Graeser.

During World War II Temple virtually burst loose at the seams as the influx of servicemen created a demand for housing and other city facilities. City expansion was made and industry was brought in to further increase the importance of the city.

Today Temple stands, despite what those doubters said back in 1881, as a city with a well-based economy, a city of beauty and culture and a city with an adequate, modern school system. It is an excellent city in which to raise a family or conduct a business.

The banking requirements are well served by two

strong national banks with ample resources to supply the financial needs of the community. The banks have been important factors in the commercial and industrial development of the city.

Temple also has an active recreational program and the city is provided with five beautiful city parks with recreational facilities and four swimming pools.

Strong fraternal and civic organizations create healthy competition which serves as a springboard for many a worthwhile city endeavor.

In recent years retail sales have shown huge gains, and internationally-known firms have been established in Temple.

Temple, with a population in excess of 32,000, has its basic industries well allied to the raw ma-



terials available in the area and is the site of the largest cottonseed oil mill in central Texas.

Agriculture, livestock, manufacturing, wholesaling, large government installations, railroad shops,

nationally-recognized hospitals, and thriving local retail businesses mark Temple as an outstanding city in the atomic age.



TEMPLE WAS GROWING UP





FIRE DEPARTMENT IN 1927



THEY GREW WITH TEMPLE—Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Cox Sr. take a spin in a buggy for old times sake. The men's furnishings store of Charles S. Cox, later Charles S. Cox and Son, opened for business

April 11, 1903, in a small, frame cubbyhole and remained in business until 1952 when it was sold to Johnsons. During this time the store became one of the leaders in its field in Central Texas.



TEMPLE'S FIRST BANK—This frame building was Temple's first bank, opened Feb. 1, 1882, by the Downs brothers, F. F. and P. L. It was

situated about 50 feet north of the present First National Bank. The crude structure served until economic demands made necessary a change.



LOT WHERE POST OFFICE NOW STANDS



IN 1893—This was the residence of W. Goodrich Jones. Note the sturdy double fencing—to keep out stray cows which were sometimes a menace. Street lighting then came from kerosene lamps.

HACKBERRY JONES AND THE STAG PARTY

W. Goodrich Jones, the first president of the Temple National Bank, arrived in 1888. On Christmas Day, 1945, he published an interesting little four-page newspaper-type sheet called "Looking Backward" to distribute to his friends. He was then living in Waco, but was full of reminiscences about Temple, his home for more than 30 years.

It is hard to visualize a Temple without trees, but that is the way Jones found it in 1888 and he didn't like it. So he arranged for men to bring in hackberry trees from the country and give them to anyone who would care for them. This earned him one of his nicknames, "Hackberry Jones."

Jones has described Temple's progress as being the result of a spirit of "get together."

It was a group of Temple citizens led by Banker Jones who met with Mayor Carton and got up a petition which, with the help of State Senator George W. Tyler, resulted in Texas celebrating its first Arbor Day, Feb. 22, 1889. Temple citizens were also in-

strumental in the establishment of the State Forest Service in 1915.

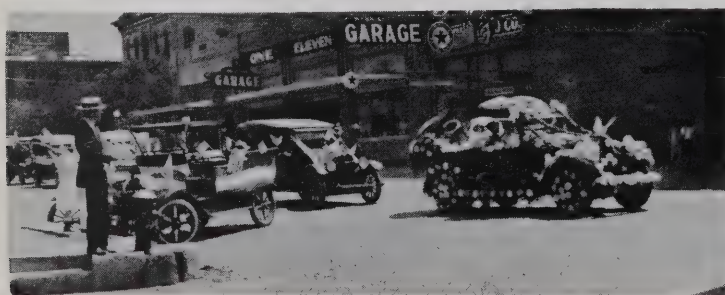
"Getting together" took on an important objective other than the propagation and preservation of trees when the first Stag Party was held in 1893.

When W. O. Cox wrote the history of the First Baptist Church to be placed in the cornerstone of the new building in 1939 he considered these yearly parties to be such an essential part of Temple history that he included a chapter on them.

The parties earned Jones his second nickname, "Stag Party Jones." Jones invited the guests and arranged the programs at the affairs held each Thanksgiving night for 32 years until their function was taken over by service clubs.

There would be lots of good food and Arkansas cider. Distinguished speakers would be heard, and to provide a little fun Jones would hand the toastmaster a list of men who would be called upon to make an impromptu speech, the speaker who did the best to receive "the largest bronze turkey to be found in all Texas." Subjects ranged from serious to dissertations on such subjects as "hay," all timed by a loud alarm clock. Smutty stories were taboo.

It was considered an honor to be invited to a Stag Party, at which as many as 400 guests might have fun and fellowship from 7 p. m. to 1:30 a. m. This left the ladies to their own devices and they organized their own Everywoman's Party in 1916.





TEMPLE POST OFFICE

"Gimme a stamp and some sugar . . ."

The following item appeared in a Temple newspaper of Nov. 26, 1881:

" . . . Mr. Gray is our worthy postmaster. In the post office building they have a fresh stock of staple and fancy groceries and sundry items of merchandise too numerous to mention. Read their advertisement, and when you call for your mail don't forget to call for other necessities wanted at home."

The mercantile firm of Gray and Black had the post office as a sideline. Gray was appointed postmaster Feb. 7, 1881. The first postmaster is listed

as Edmond G. Pendleton, who served less than a month, from Jan. 18 to Feb. 7, 1881.

Subsequent postmasters, listed chronologically, have been J. J. Hoke, John W. Wright, William L. Kelsey, Richard H. Ford, Felix Grundy, Thomas J. Darling, Alex Dienst, John L. Pike (acting), Barnett N. Jarrell, Thomas J. Darling, Clarence J. Power, William N. Roberson (acting), Henry E. Dunlavy, William N. Roberson and Mrs. Opal F. Roberson, the present postmistress who was appointed in 1947 and who furnished the information for this article.



CITY WATER DEPARTMENT'S FILTRATION PLANT

THE WATER WORKS

The Temple Water Department dates back to about 1882 when a company was formed by private ownership with a franchise to operate under the name of The Temple Waterworks Company.

This company had five water wells and a standpipe with water mains limited to the then business district and a water line supplying the Santa Fe Railway. Some 10 years later a pump station was established on the Leon River at the same location as the present raw water pump station and an 8" cast iron water main was laid to Temple. At this time the population of Temple was about 4,500.

The population figure had reached 7,065 in 1900 at which time the civic leaders started thinking about purchasing the company. Nothing was done until October 1907 when a \$150,000 bond election was held for the purpose of purchasing the Waterworks Company. This election carried with a vote of 370 to 30.

In January, 1908, the City Council appointed the following citizens to serve as a Water Commission to administrate the water department under municipal ownership. This commission was composed of Chas. M. Campbell, chairman, and P. W. Carroll, F. L. Denison, W. S. Banks and C. E. Bruner.

This newly appointed Board of Water Commissioners immediately employed N. Werenskiold of Dallas as a consulting engineer to make a study of the water system relative to improvements.

Pat Bracken was employed March 24, 1908 as water superintendent.

Upon acquiring ownership of the water department, The Board of Water Commissioners was faced with the problem of clarifying the water. As the water in the river was muddy then the water in the tap was also muddy and in August, 1908 a committee was appointed to get the proper information as to the cost of increasing the size of the river main from 8" to 18", remodeling the reservoir, putting in filter beds and a city pumping station.

A committee was appointed in September, 1908 to purchase Block 46 in Freeman Heights Addition upon which to locate the filter plant. This purchase was consummated for \$1,100.00.

On May 6, 1909 The City Council were asked to call a bond election to finance extension of the 18" water main to the river, and other improvements. This election was held August 1, 1909 and carried. At this time the Water Commission were receiving numerous petitions for water main extensions to all parts of the city with fire hydrants

placed in the proper locations.

As the city had increased to 10,993 in 1910 the board was busy in its efforts to keep the growth of the system in line with the population growth. On April 22, 1913 the City Council passed an ordinance for a \$75,000 tax bond issue for this expansion and for the purchase of the sewerage system which was purchased by the city later that year.

As the city increased by 1920 to 11,033 and as the demand for further extension in both water and sewer increased it became apparent that another bond election must be held. On April 15, 1925 a bond issue of \$50,00 was passed by a vote of 710 for and 68 against the issue of bonds. In 1930 the population had reached 15,345 and in 1940 was 15,344 so as there was no growth within the city the Water and Sewer dept. were more or less concerned with maintenance only.

In 1938 a bond election was held which revenue bonds to the amount of \$275,000 and was carried by 508 for and 203 against. This issue was made be-

cause the water treatment plant and the sewage treatment plant had become inadequate and as federal aid as a public health service to the cities became available, a new filter plant was built at the river and a new sewer plant was constructed about a mile East of Town. This was a cooperative project.

Ten years later a \$600,000 revenue bond election was carried which was in two parts, \$155,000 for water improvements and \$445,000 for sewer. The first carried by 1,222 for and 321 against. The second part carried by 1,220 for and 317 against.

Both of these plants were built in 1939.

In 1950 the increase in population was to 25,015 and to date the estimate is over 35,000 people.

The early development of the water and sewer system has been in a constructive way with the railroads and hospitals being largely responsible. The city officials have realized the importance of keeping these utilities in pace with the growth of the city.



TEMPLE HAD ITS PLANE PLANT

Texas' first airplane factory was built in Temple and produced what some authorities acclaimed as the nation's safest airmail carriers and pioneered the one-wing plane from 1910 to 1930.

The factory, owned by the Temple Aero Corporation, was built at the old Woodland airport in southwest Temple. It was from this field that George W. Williams, who founded the firm, first soloed in his home-made plane in 1908.

The Temple Aero Corporation turned out mail carriers that held together in rough mountain air where other ships fell apart. By 1930 the firm's sport plane was nationally known. Specifications were: Wing span 37 feet, 4 inches; weight, empty, 900 pounds; horsepower, 90 at 2,000 r.p.m.; range, 400 miles; top speed, 100 m.p.h. and landing speed, 30 m.p.h.

Cabin planes were built also, but Temple Aero's specialty was a plane designed to fly mail at night and fly it consistently. These ships won the sanction of the U. S. postal system and were advertised as the safest planes made, featuring low landing speeds and landing lights. Until then, night landing was done with the aid of flares dropped by parachute.

Williams was president of the corporation and his death in 1930 in an air crash dissolved the factory. His followers said they went broke trying to carry on. Williams was a member of the Early Birds, a world-wide organization of flyers who were among the first.

George Carroll was vice president of TAC, Roy Sanderford was secretary-treasurer, and Williams' brother, E. K. Williams, was board chairman.



TEMPLE DAILY TELEGRAM

"Central Texas' most interesting newspaper" is the claim advanced by the Temple Daily Telegram which has won national recognition as an outstanding small-city daily.

Today's lively, progressive Telegram is the lineal descendant of more than a score of weekly and daily publications in Temple. The first weekly was established in 1881, less than four months after Temple was founded. In 1907, the Daily Telegram, established by the late E. K. Williams and associates, was dominant in the city, and it was the only newspaper in Temple when the present management, now headed by Frank W. Mayborn, publisher, bought it in 1934. This year it marked its 50th Anniversary as a daily newspaper.

Under its present management, the Telegram has been a consistent winner in regional and national newspaper contests. Among its honors are two first-place awards for community service in the nationwide annual contest sponsored by the National Editorial Association; an Ayer contest - national third place; three first-place awards for general excellence

in the five-state Southwest newspaper contests; and more than 100 miscellaneous awards in state and regional contests for general excellence, editorial writing, column writing, promotional activity, advertising design, and typography.

The Telegram maintains full-time service of the Associated Press and United Press, plus its own correspondents in Washington and Austin, and an army of Central Texas community correspondents. Regionally, it also maintains full-time bureaus in Belton and Killeen.

The Telegram's circulation, always high for cities in Temple's population bracket, has climbed steadily since newsprint was "unfrozen" at the end of World War II. Today, it stands at 17,742 daily and 18,290 Sunday, and is still growing.

Temple residents say "the Telegram is always promoting something," and they are just about right. Among the newspaper's regular promotional activities are the Central Texas Pioneers Club, an organization of more than 1,300 members, all of them 50-year residents of Central Texas; the County Spelling Bee; Cen-

Tex amateur baseball league; football preview, handicraft show, parties and cooking schools; and the prized Santa Pal movement, which each Christmas undertakes to see that no child in Temple is missed on Christmas morning.

An equipment modernization program in its own three-story plant has been completed with the installation of a new high-speed 40-page color press. Almost every piece of machinery and equipment has been replaced with new, and the management believes the Telegram's production plant is one of the best in the nation.

The Telegram's executive personnel is headed by Frank W. Mayborn as the active editor and publisher; C. A. Schulz, assistant publisher and general manager; Harry O. Blanding, Jr., executive editor; Jack K. Childress, circulation director, and William S. Moore, advertising manager.

BELL COUNTY RECORD

The Bell County Record is the county's youngest newspaper, its first issue appearing on the streets of Temple on Nov. 5, 1954.

Originally devoted to local Temple news, reorganization and a reorientation of the paper's policies about three years ago has turned its services more to the coverage of news for and about the farmers and rural areas. Special emphasis is given to the Bell County Farm Bureau, one of the most active organizations in the county.

The publishers express the conviction that "a community newspaper should be a crusader for the people, outspoken on local issues which affect the people's welfare for either good or bad without fear of pressure groups—in the tradition of the real newspapermen of the Old West."

Beginning as a free-circulation paper, the Record now has a paid circulation of 4,000 with subscribers in all parts of the county, particularly the rural areas.

The Bell County Record is published by the Record Publishing Company. John T. Williamson is editor.



TELEVISION FACILITY—In addition to the Temple Daily Telegram, Frank Mayborn operates KCEN-TV and radio station KTEM, acquired in 1936.

THE FERGUSONS

Everything about the Governors Ferguson was noteworthy; they were the first and so far the only two-governor family in Texas and Mrs. Ferguson was the first and still the only woman governor. Without these facts, however, they would have still attracted lots of attention, for they injected their personalities into political issues in a grand manner.

Both James E. and Miriam (Wallace) Ferguson were born east of Salado.

Jim was the son of Rev. James E. Ferguson, an Alabaman and a Methodist who first came to Bell County in 1848 and soon bought the mill of Ira and Whitfield Chalk on Salado Creek. Rev. Ferguson was a forceful man. With but three months of formal education he was said to be able to read the Bible in its Greek version. As a justice of the peace shortly after the Civil War he was responsible for the organization of the first unit of the Ku Klux Klan in Central Texas. Old timers have insisted that the aims of this organization at that time were high, that it was organized to do something about the lawless conditions that then were rampant.

Young Jim was a robust youngster who worked in the mill, played on the creek bank and picked many a sack of cotton. Farmers would come for miles to have their grain ground and to purchase supplies. The future governor could not help but soak up lots of the farmers' philosophy as he listened to them talk. In later life he gloried in the appellation "Farmer Jim" and could always count on his "vest pocket" rural vote.

It must be pointed out that not all the rural vote was by any means in the farmer boy's vest pocket, although much of his strength lay there. Both supporters and opponents of both Fergusons could be found in all the voting blocs. Farmer, industrialist, laborer or white collar wearer, you were either "fer 'em or agin 'em" when it came to the Fergusons.

James E. Ferguson became governor in 1914 on a platform of aid to the farmer, especially the alleged abuses of landlords against the tenant farmers, and in opposition to prohibition. He was impeached in 1917 during his second term by a legislative session which he himself called.

Mrs. Ferguson served two non-consecutive terms, 1925-27 and 1933-35, and was defeated in the 1940 primaries.

Both Fergusons probably caused more controversy over their extremely liberal policy of granting pardons and paroles to state prisoners than on any other issue.

One thing is certain. They were a colorful pair who made many normally complacent citizens acutely aware of their state government. And it's still easy to start a hot argument over the Fergusons in any part of the state, no matter which side you take.



OLD FERGUSON HOME—This house on N. 7th St. in Temple was once the home of the Governors Ferguson. A tall tower on the left has been removed and part of the upstairs porches made into rooms.

REST IN PIECES . . .

About 1928 Temple's city fathers began to realize that something should be done toward providing effective signs designating the various highway routes through the city. Not only would this be a matter of courtesy, but it would make the traveler's memory of Temple a pleasant one and he might come back some day with money to spend.

The city manager pondered hundreds of types of signs that could be used for school zones, stop signs and the like as well as for highway signs.

Some were too small to be seen, others were eyesores, several were too expensive to install and maintain and many, if not most, were not safe against sticks and stones mixed with small boys.

Why not try concrete slabs? Goody! But would not concrete slabs of the required shape look too much like old-fashioned tombstones?

"They would not!" said the artists employed by several monument makers who were consulted. "The proportions will be different, and who could possibly compare a chunk of dumb concrete with a piece of stone art which is a thing of beauty requiring . . . etc., etc."

Well, the city decided to experiment. A cast iron mold was fashioned and a few slabs turned out. To play it safe and to make the signs more attractive it was decided to paint a bright orange border around the stones. The message, such as Heidenheimer 5, was to be painted in black, as was the arrow which would point in the proper direction.

But municipal planning and municipal performance do not always run parallel courses and slabs

were installed at several prominent places before they had been painted.

The result was a flood of complaints from angry citizens, probably including some who had never taken enough serious interest in their city to vote at an election but who looked askance on the possibility of a tourist returning home to remark, "Say, I saw a town in Texas that is so lazy they don't even move 'em to the cemetery—so tight they use tombstones for street signs!"

This state of affairs was reported in the "Town Talk" column of the Temple Daily Telegram on April 3, 1928, a special issue commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Charles S. Cox and Son store.

The reporter went on to say that the furor died down somewhat after all the slabs had been painted, but there is always a joker in every deck and "Sunday, somebody with a strong sense of humor decorated one of the concrete slabs with crepe and painted on it a sign saying 'rest in pieces' and other comical things."

As the matter then stood, it had been decided to paint the pesky slabs dark blue with white lettering. But it was predicted that not many more slabs would be built for a time because "the public is fickle and this thing has to be experimented with."

The column ended with this apt statement, "Markers are a little thing, it is true, but they make a whale of a difference."

The "whale of a difference" that existed in street signs from community to community not many years

back has now happily disappeared to the extent that one can usually tell a sign's purpose just by its shape, be he in Maine or in Texas.

HOLD UP, TEDDY!

In 1904 the news got around that President Theodore Roosevelt was making a tour and would pass through Temple.

This probably didn't cause much excitement at first. After all, Teddy was not only a foreigner to these parts—he was also a Republican and only to be tolerated until the next election when the Democrats would surely take over.

Then it was learned that the presidential train was not scheduled to stop at Temple, that it would just go whizzing by with the old Rough Rider completely ignoring the "Prairie Queen City." He'd probably be pulling on a big cigar and scheming with his fellow Republican big shots just how they could make it rough on the Central Texas farmer.

Well, dadgummit, Republican or not, he was still President of the United States and he should show some respect for Temple.

There was an emergency meeting of the city council which resulted in an ordinance demanding that all presidential trains stop in Temple for five minutes. The city marshal and the sheriff saw to it that the Roosevelt train did stop. And the President even made a little speech which was well received. He wasn't such a bad guy if you kept him in his place!



PRIVATE MUSEUM—Gordon Mackey, Temple druggist, stands in his collection of the tools, weapons, implements and decorations men of the past have used. In the Mackey "gomp room" are such diverse items as

Indian artifacts, a side saddle, a pothook from a pioneer home, Japanese swords and elephant bells from Bali. Such collections give life to the written word of history.

HOSPITAL CENTER OF THE SOUTH

Temple has for many years been known as the hospital center of the South. From the spark engendered in 1891 with the establishment of the Santa Fe Hospital, private hospitals were soon established and Temple became the home base of many "doctor's doctors," specialists and research men.

For many years Temple's hospitals have treated patients from all over the world.

The mammoth McCloskey General Hospital was built in 1942 at a cost of approximately \$5 million and has evolved into the present McCloskey Veterans Administration Center which has added even more to Temple's stature as a hospital town.



McCLOSKEY VETERANS ADMINISTRATION CENTER HOSPITAL, TEMPLE



SANTA FE HOSPITAL

"Going to Temple" has long been the course of action followed by ailing employees of the Gulf Coast and Santa Fe Railway.

The fact that they have been able to come to Temple for treatment is due to contributions made by all Santa Fe employees toward their mutual benefit.

In 1884 there existed in Texas an organization known as the Texas Railway Employees Mutual Benefit Association, to which railway employees made volunteer contributions into their own prepaid health plan. Only those who contributed shared in the benefits. After a few years this association was dissolved, later becoming a part of the Santa Fe Employees Association. Texas law required that this be a separate corporation apart from the railroad.

Construction of the first frame unit of the hospital at Temple was begun in 1892 by the GC&SF Hospital Association, which had succeeded the old employees association.

The hospital grew in size and facilities through the years and began to take on its present form in 1907 when construction was begun on a completely new hospital which was to be built in three sections. The first unit was completed in 1908, the second in 1915 and the final wing in 1926, making available space for about 250 beds and other necessary departments.

Currently, the hospital is operated in the same manner as a general community-type hospital, utilizing the latest techniques in patient initial care and therapeutic treatment.

Presently, the plant represents an investment of approximately \$500,000. It remains an organized operation by and for Santa Fe employees.

In 1957 more than 4,000 patients were treated at the hospital and 3,000 more were treated as outpatients. Operating expenses amounted to more than \$750,000—a sizable sum, but made much

easier to bear because so many persons were helping with the load.



ORIGINAL BUILDING



FIRST WING OF PRESENT PLANT



KING'S DAUGHTERS

Accounts of the founding of King's Daughters Hospital vary as to detail, perhaps because of disagreement over what specific incident constituted its founding.

"Texas Under Many Flags" says that in about 1896 a group of women under the leadership of Mrs. Annie Sullivan became concerned because Temple had no facilities for the medical care of needy persons and formed a local unit of the King's Daughters and Sons, an international charitable organization. The local group called themselves the "What-So-Ever Circle."

They rented a three-room frame house on N. Ninth between Elm and French and installed three destitute patients therein, caring for them with the aid of one hired woman.

In 1898, the book continues, they secured an abandoned church on S. Fifth for hospital use. The King's Daughters Hospital Association was chartered as a non-profit corporation on Oct. 11, 1898.

George E. Wilcox was the first president. Other members of the board of trustees were Maud S. Scott, Cornelia A. Parsons, Carrie C. Reid, J. T. Smith and W. E. Hall.

"The Handbook of Texas" says that Drs. A. C. Scott and R. R. White, founded King's Daughters in 1897.

Whether officially or not, it appears that Doctors Scott and White did help with the organization of King's Daughters.

Both were on the staff prior to withdrawing to form their own hospital in 1904 and Doctor Scott's daughter, Mrs. Preston Childers, still has a King's Daughters pin given her when she was a small child by a New York representative of the organization who was a house guest of the Scott family at about the time the hospital was founded.

The King's Daughters Clinic is an organization of leading surgeons and physicians separate from the hospital.

In 1900 the hospital moved into a two-story frame house on 22nd and Ave. C, part of the present site. Additions and improvements were made against great odds at times. By 1928 all the wooden buildings were gone and the hospital outwardly resembled the present plant. Buildings and equipment have been kept up to date.

The school for the training of nurses was opened in 1904.

In 1905 the hospital had become overcrowded and a distinguished surgeon, Dr. J. S. McCelvey, donated and equipped a frame building for the use of surgery.

Shortly before this time the King's Daughters had reluctantly withdrawn their official support and Dr. McCelvey has been largely responsible for the hospital's growth.

Born in 1870, McCelvey moved to Temple with his family in 1884. He received his higher academic education at the University of Texas and his



first medical degree from Jefferson Medical College at Philadelphia.

After practicing for a time at Heidenheimer, Dr. McCelvey went to Germany for further training.

Although he no longer takes patients, the doctor is still active and maintains an office at the hospital. He recalls the old, pre-hospital days when operations were performed in the home of the patient by the light of a kerosene lamp. Every available pot and pan would be borrowed to heat water and the whole neighborhood would sometimes be disrupted. Those were the days of the horseback house calls in any kind of weather and at any hour of the night or day for \$2.

The public was slow to appreciate hospitals, fear and distrust keeping many patients out when they should have been in. And hospitals which found themselves needing money with which to operate had a hard time finding a lender.

Horse kickings were long a major cause of injury, and they could be fatal.

Few men have lived through such an evolution in medical procedure as has Dr. McCelvey.

"We can do so much more now, especially in surgery," he said, explaining that many operations that are now almost commonplace would have been impossible not so long ago.



SCOTT AND WHITE

Dr. A. C. Scott of Gainesville came to Temple Oct. 1, 1892, to take over the duties of Chief Surgeon at the Santa Fe Hospital, a big job for a man just 25 years old.

Dr. R. R. White of Cameron joined the staff in 1894 and the two men became close friends. They established a private practice and became full partners in 1897.

As their work increased so did the need for private hospital facilities. This need was filled with the founding of King's Daughters Hospital, where both

doctors practiced as surgeons before withdrawing to organize their own hospital in 1904.

A frame residence at 212 N. 7th was the first Scott and White Hospital, although the institution was called the Temple Sanitarium until 1923.

The frame residence, which could accommodate only eight patients, was soon outgrown and a Catholic convent building was purchased and converted to hospital use. This building is still a part of the plant, located on W. Ave. F.

The Temple Sanitarium Training School for Nurses



FIRST GRADUATES—In the 1904 graduating class of the Temple Sanitarium nurses' school were, seated left to right: Brookman, Jacock (supervisor) and Castleman. Standing are Roberts, Schafer, Barclay and Rowland.

had its first graduating class in 1904.

In 1949 Scott and White Hospital ceased to exist as a private institution and the present non-profit corporation (Scott and White Memorial Hospital, and Scott, Sherwood and Brindley Foundation) was created. At the time of this reorganization, the Scott and White Clinic, an association of physicians, was formed.

Today, the Scott and White Memorial Hospital and the Scott, Sherwood and Brindley Foundation is governed by a board of trustees composed of six physicians and six public or "outside" members. To assist the board of trustees, there is an advisory board composed of civic, business and professional leaders of the Southwest. The Hospital-Foundation carries on a program of hospital service, training of nurses and physicians and research.

The Cora Anderson Negro Hospital is a unit of Scott and White which was opened to patients in 1953. Funds for its construction were provided by its parent organization and by interested citizens.



FIRST HOSPITAL OF DOCTORS SCOTT AND WHITE



TEMPLE AIRPORT

The Draughon-Miller Municipal Airport at Temple is a city-owned installation consisting of 738 acres north of Highway 36 about four miles west of the city.

The land originally was bought by the city for \$50,000 and improvements made by the Air Force and Civil Aeronautics Administration. At the conclusion of World War II, the field was turned over to the city.

There are three asphalt runways, three hangars, 19 rental apartments and a \$60,000 administration building which was built in 1950.

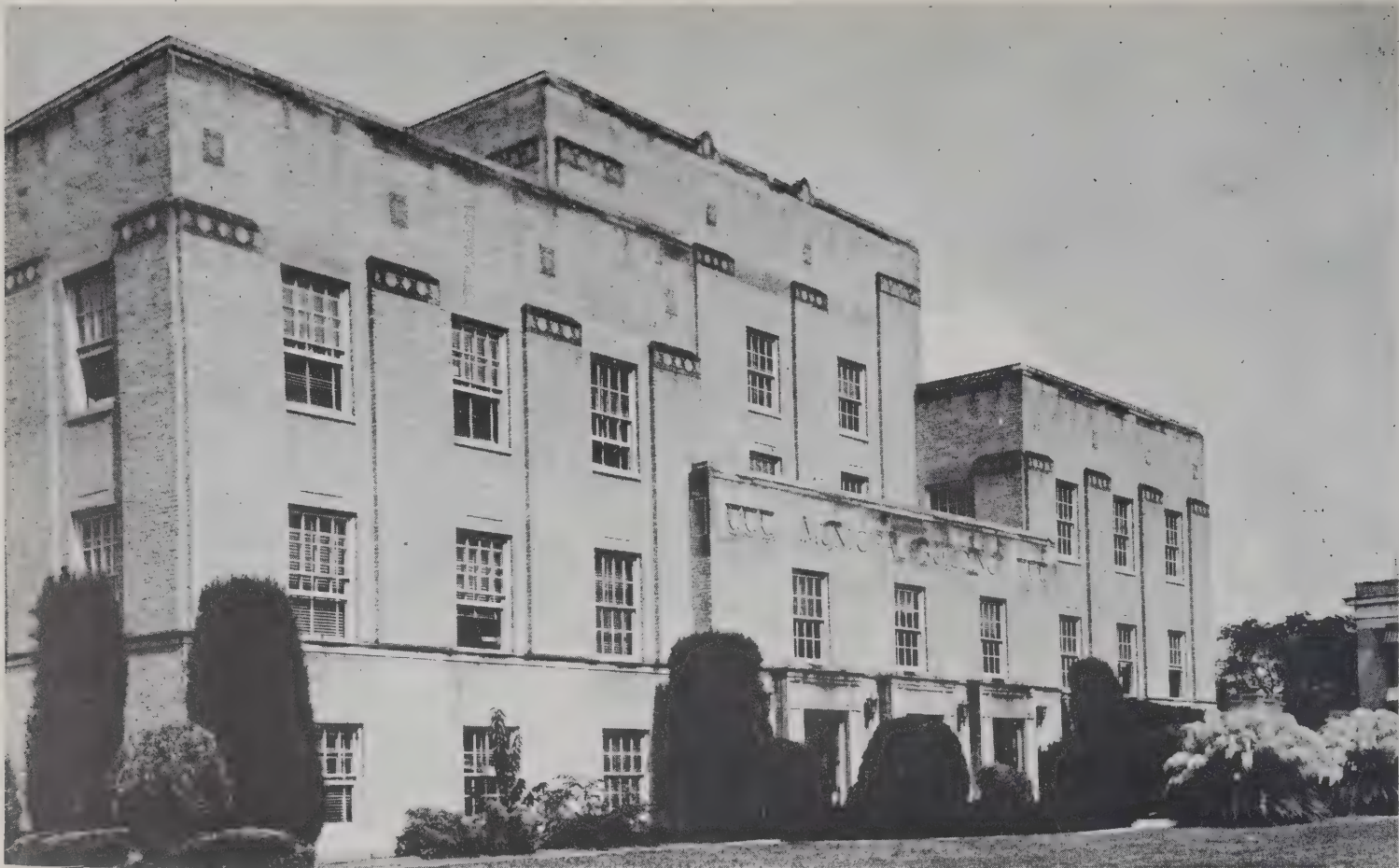
When the federal government uses the facilities

it pays for all utilities used and makes all repairs for heavy use.

Elmer Reed, airport manager, reports that 849 passengers came into the field during the first month of 1958 compared with 731 passengers during the same period the previous year. During January 1958, a total of 353 passengers departed from the airport.

Airmail poundage leaving the airport during January 1958, totaled 10,304 compared to 8,332 pounds during the same month the previous year.

Both commercial and private planes use the facilities of the field.



MUNICIPAL BUILDING



HUGE MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT



LOOKING NORTHEAST OVER TEMPLE



FOOTBRIDGE OF 1870s—This is reproduced from a painting by Mrs. Mildred Barton Law, daughter of the prominent Salado physician, Dr. Welborn Barton. This view looks south toward Salado College on the hill.

The other Salado bridge picture with this article was taken with the camera pointed north. Several of the old buildings seen in these pictures are still standing.

SALADO

The inviting view of the bubbling springs, trees and vegetation along Salado Creek was well known to the Indians as a favorite camping spot long before the white man came upon the area and immediately recognized it as a good spot in which to settle.

The white man's entry into the area came early, with history reporting that Archibald Willingham and his two sons, Jack and Wilson, and J. C. Ballard were living along the banks of the creek as early as 1851.

But Salado did not begin to open up to any degree until Col. E. Sterling C. Robertson, son of Empresario Sterling C. Robertson, moved in from Austin in 1853 or 1854. Robertson, who was to become almost synonymous with Salado, owned several leagues of land which included the springs. Another large landowner was Col. Thomas H. Jones of Austin. Robertson acquired the Willingham cabin and later erected a large two-story colonial dwelling.

Slowly the settlers began to move to the beautiful site and Robertson sold off land.

As the country began to expand Salado soon took over a top spot as a waypoint for early-day trans-

portation. A military thoroughfare was opened from Memphis to St. Louis, down through Texas into Austin and then to San Antonio and southward into Mexico. The settlement grew up where the army highway crossed Salado Creek and all travel passed along the route from Waco Village into Belton and then into the new town of Salado. Through the infant community passed the cavalry, Overland Mail and the Pony Express. Travelers left their jostling stagecoaches for a rest at Salado. Shortly after the middle of the 19th Century there were reported to be about 50 families settled in and around Salado. The Stage Coach Inn, which still serves the needs of travelers, was erected in 1852 beside what was the most important road in Texas.

The town became more important as the huge cattle drives to the northern markets plodded along the Chisholm Trail which meandered through Salado.

In 1856 Salado College gave the settlement an unusual place in history and the town became known as a center of learning for a number of years. Only the remains of the old college are standing today.

The small creek which cut through the settlement furnished gay picnic spots, swimming holes and sites



STAGECOACH INN STILL OPERATING

for outdoor activities. The water also was the source for grist mills located along its banks above and below the town.

Before any dams were built the shallow creek was crossed on stepping stones with logs chained to the rocks, filling the gaps in the wider places. With each rise on the creek, the logs would wash out and it was necessary to replace them. About 1866 the water was backed over the rocks when a dam was erected below the town. A crossing was improvised with logs raised on legs high enough above the water to keep pedestrians' feet dry. This, however, was a shaky way to get across the stream and more often than not, the adventurer received an unscheduled bath.

The situation brought a demand for a good bridge and this led to incorporation of the town. O. T. Tyler was elected mayor on Feb. 23, 1867, Thomas H. Jones was named treasurer and aldermen were chosen.

Immediately, the new officials set about the task of solving the bridge problem. An idea hit upon was to raise funds by voluntary donations to finance the bridge. This plan failed when the funds proved to be insufficient. In 1869 the officials ordered a bond issue to finance the bridge, the bonds were sold to the residents and \$2,500 raised. Home talent was used to design, engineer and construct the bridge which was finished in 1870.

The structure gained considerable attention down through the years. Stone abutments were built on each side of the stream and to these were anchored two large wire cables which formed the suspension. From these cables, wire cords were suspended to hold the plank floor of the bridge in place. The bridge swayed about 20 feet above the water. Wagons, buggies and horsemen continued to ford the stream as the bridge served pedestrians for about 30 years, until a combination foot and wagon bridge was built a few yards upstream. All traces of the suspension bridge were washed away in the 1913 flood.

At one time the town had two lines of business houses with drug stores and several doctors. Also situated at Salado were wool carding establishments, flour and grist mills, and tanneries.

Until early 1880's Salado ranked next to Belton in both size and importance and its trade area covered a large part of the southern half of the county. When the railroads pushed through north and east of Salado the new railroad towns drew away most of the town's trade and it began to decline. Also, modernization of the educational system brought about the decline of the college and the place Salado held in the education field disappeared.



SALADO SOMETIME BEFORE 1913



OLD ROBERTSON HOME—This residence was started in 1852 by Gen. Elijah Sterling Clack Robertson, son of the empresario. Robertsons have continually occupied the home since it was constructed. In 1936

the Robertsons redecorated the home and it was a shrine for those interested in history during the centennial of Texas' Independence. General Robertson was known as the builder of Salado.



RESIDENCE OF DR. WILBORN BARTON AT SALADO, BUILT ABOUT 1868



TALES OF CAMP TAYUAYA

By RONALD JOHNSON

District Commissioner, Heart O' Texas Council
Boy Scout of America

The following piece, written a few years ago, concerns the history of the site of Camp Tayuaya, Boy Scout camp near Salado. It may not be history with a capital H; admittedly, some of the statements made are a little startling, especially the one about the 20 burros loaded with gold "mined in the area" if that area were to include any part of Texas. Some of the details here may be literally untrue, or just partly

true while others are well documented. But J. Frank Dobie has said, in effect, that a story belongs to the person who tells it best and last. It is in that spirit and in the belief that this storehouse of legend will be enjoyable that this is printed. The F. B. Russell referred to was publisher of the Belton Journal from 1927 until his death in 1943.

On the old Chisholm Trail through Central Texas, where buffalo and Indians once roamed and armored Spanish Conquistadors built their forts and buried their gold, is a spot rich in legend, old ruins, and other reminders of peoples who made history in the Southwest. It is beautiful Camp Tahuaya, the Scout Camp of the Heart O' Texas Council.

The 72-acre patch of rocky woodland on the banks of the Lampasas River has known more history, adventure, and thrilling action than could be packed between the covers of a good novel.

In few sections of the country will one find a spot so appropriate for a campsite and at the same time so bountiful in the lore of history as around the

sparkling springs of Camp Tahuaya. The literature of the Southwest is sprinkled with tales of this romantic ground, and old-timers can hold one spell-bound with their tales of happenings around the place.

Probably no one is better informed or has more enchanting stories to tell of the region than F. B. Russell, newspaper editor of Belton, who for years tramped over its hills collecting Indian artifacts and archeological specimens. Russell knew personally many of the old settlers of the region and the location of most of its historic places. He knew the history of Camp Tahuaya long before it echoed to the happy laughter and running footsteps of vigor-

ous, enthusiastic Boy Scouts.

The site, according to Russell, was the camp and burial ground of a pre-historic race of people and later of the Indians. Ten skeletons of this pre-historic race were dug up some years ago just 200 feet from the present camp administration building. When excavation began on the present camp swimming pool, three more were dug up on one end of the site and another was found under a tree which was cut down. The rings of the tree showed its age to be more than 200 years. The steps leading to the spring and pool from the administration building were dug by this pre-historic race which left many other evidences of its existence.

On the hills surrounding the spring, thousands of flint arrowheads and other Indian relics have been found both by Russell and by Scouts.

While the Indians still roamed the hills, the story goes, the Spaniards built a palace for the soldiers close by. Two of the more than 200 silver mines worked by the Spaniards are located a few feet from the camp flagpole. These have now been walled up to prevent curious youngsters from getting hurt in them from falling rocks.

The stones which fell from the ruins of the old buildings and a stone horse corral, have been used to build the fine, large administration building of the camp. The ruins of an old Spanish powder magazine are located only 20 feet from one of the cabins which dot the camp grounds.

But the most interesting tale of all which Russell had to tell is that of the lost Spanish gold. Many of the old-timers in the country have heard this one with variations.

It seems that a Spanish pack train of 20 burros laden with gold mined in the area and guarded by 20 soldiers began a northward trek to some destination now unknown. The party was attacked by Indians who drove them back. Fearing the capture of the gold, the captain of the company buried it on a hill beside what is now known as Little Blue Spring.

What happened to the Spaniards is not known, but some years ago an Indian was bitten by a rattlesnake near Georgetown. He was taken to a doctor at Georgetown by George Pape who lived not far from the camp. The Indian recovered and in appreciation for saving his life he told Pape the above legend which he had heard many years before while he lived in East Texas. The Indian was a newcomer in the district but was able to tell of many landmarks of which he had heard, and described a rock under which he said that his grandmother had been buried.

A party investigated the story and found a skeleton of a woman, presumably the grandmother, just where the Indian had said that it would be, but the gold was never found. There is hardly a 100 yard plot in the entire camp that does not show

signs of the search of treasure hunters for the buried gold.

A corporation was formed in recent years and stock was sold to raise money for the search. The hill by Little Blue Spring was mined but no treasure was found. The only treasure apparent in the deal was the \$40,000 which passed from the pockets of the investors to those of the operators.

"I didn't get roped in on that deal," Russell commented. George Proctor, whose grandfather settled on the land adjoining Camp Tahuaya in 1854, remembers when as a boy of 16 he watched a party dig for treasure beside the springs at the camp. The party found no treasure.

A Mr. Neysmith, who for many years operated a machine shop in Belton, and who owned the adjoining land on which is located Spicewood Springs, knew another version of the legend. He related that at the close of the Mexican War the United States government paid a large sum of money to Mexico for part of the land obtained in the treaty. The money was paid in gold or bullion bars and was delivered to a Mexican pack train with a guard of 20 soldiers of Fort Little Rock in Arkansas.

The party followed the old Chisholm Trail as far as Spicewood Springs where it was attacked by a band of Indians and renegades. After losing several of his men the Mexican officer, to save the gold, put it in the spring. The survivors later found that the gold had sunk and could not be recovered. It is supposed to still be in the spring.

Although old-timers in and around Belton cannot verify it, it is safe to assume that these tales might be other versions of the story of the 10 Mexican jacks loaded with gold about which L. D. Bertillion wrote in "Steinheimer's Millions." The story is included in J. Frank Dobie's "Legends of Texas." Frank Ellis, who told the legend to Bertillion, lived about two miles from Camp Tahuaya.

R. S. Summers has still another story from an old settler of the county. He relates that an old man lived with his daughter on the present site of the camp administration building. He had accumulated a goodly portion of the world's goods and decided to go west for a visit. His daughter was to stay at home until his return.

Before leaving he decided to bury his money so that it would be safe. His daughter, working in the house, heard him digging but paid little attention to the location. When the old man went west he was killed by the Indians and never returned.

The camp grounds are four miles from Salado. The old Chisholm Cattle Trail once ran through the present camp grounds and close by is a monument erected by the State of Texas which designated the site of the Childer-Shanklin Mill, one of the earliest in the state.

At one time a blacksmith shop stood on the site. When Sam Houston entered Texas for the first time

in 1832 with a commission from the United States to confer with certain Indian tribes in Texas, he spent the night there and had his horse shod at the blacksmith shop. The blacksmith shop was later moved away but in recent years has been found and descendants of the man who shod Houston's horse have given the anvil and other equipment to the camp. It is now in operation there for camp handicraft activities.

In more recent years, Joe Zack Miller Jr., now of Kansas City, acquired the property and in 1932 presented it to the Heart O' Texas Council for its camp.

Rich in flora and fauna, with a dozen or more caves and many rocky ledges, the camp offers the ideal spot in which a real boy can enjoy life.

In the first year of its operation as a Scout camp, many centipedes of eight inches or more in length and every poisonous snake in America but the cottonmouth moccasin were found in numbers. Constant use and vigilance, however, have cleaned out the reptiles and other hazards and made the place a safe camp ground.

Thousands of campers have enjoyed the beautiful scenery and thrilled to the spine chilling legends of the place since the Council acquired it.

"Scouting cannot fail in such a setting," the late Scout executive, George W. Powell, affirmed.

In a land that fairly breathes of the bravery and deeds of heroes who brought the great State of Texas into existence, Scouting finds a natural setting.



OENAVILLE

Tradition says that the town of Oenaville was named for a Seminole Indian maiden.

In 1871 Joseph Bray built a store building for merchants Thompson and Johnson. Johnson was a young man from Florida with thoughts of the pretty Oena he had left behind.

When it became time to choose a name for the little settlement around the store eight miles east of Temple on Little Elm Creek, Johnson just tacked a "ville" onto his sweetheart's name.

Oenaville was once a leading business town of the county. It was on a horseback mail route between

Belton and Marlin and was known for the progressiveness of its farmers, especially as manifested in their strong Grange activities.

There was an old cemetery located on the banks of Pecan Creek. It was used from 1870 to 1896. Names on the stones include McMinn, Flanikan, Thompson, Clark, McGloun, Veazey, McGinnis, Williams, Ship, Wingfield, and Teaff.

Mrs. Jessie Clark Willingham, now living in the old Dr. Barnwell home, is the granddaughter of the Thompson of the old Thompson and Johnson firm.



MAIN STREET, BARTLETT—Super modern, big city shopping centers with their covered walks are using a basic idea that has been employed at Bartlett for many, many years. And towns embroiled in controversy over the fluoridization of drinking water are behind times, too. Bartlett has been removing excessive fluorine from its water for a long time. The line between Bell and Williamson Counties angles lazily across Main Street, at times causing much confusion and hot words, especially

at election and tax-paying time. There have been times when liquor laws of the two counties differed and a bar could operate in one end of a building but not in the other end. "Tourists" have ridden many miles on the train to get to the south side of Bartlett for a glass of cold beer. Bartlett once even had its own railroad. The short-lived Bartlett & Florence, later Bartlett & Western, ran a distance of 23.1 miles and was called the Bullfrog.

BARTLETT

Soon after the Civil War a few settlers established themselves in the area around Bartlett, mostly along Donohue Creek. These early family names included Stockton, Allen, Dike or Dikes, Herndon, Jones, Goode and Mills. And later, Robinson, Kelso and Martin.

The first family in the immediate vicinity of Bartlett was that of J. E. Pietzch, and they certainly must have been discouraged when they arrived at their new "home."

A year earlier, about 1873, Pietzch had come to the area alone, bought 800 acres of land at 50 cents per acre and had spent days building a house.

He then returned to Washington County to pick up his family. It must have been an exciting trip back as he described the farm and plans were made for its future development.

But as the anxious family drew near and craned their necks for a first look at the house, it was discovered that there was no house. A cyclone had completely demolished it. Unbeaten, the family lived in its wagons until a new building could be erected.

In 1875 the Pietzchs had a neighbor. Capt. John Bartlett arrived from Missouri and bought land next to their place.

Also about 1875, Taylor sprang up as a village to the south. New arrivals in the Bartlett area began planting crops and much of the cotton raised was sold at Taylor, 18 miles away and then a full day's journey.

Farmers returning home with the cash received from their crops were often the victims of highwaymen. They thought up ruses to thwart crooks,

such as fastening their money under the wagons. And they supported these measures with six-guns and rifles. Too, they traveled in groups if possible. Sometimes dead robbers were left beside the trail as a warning to other would-be hoodlums.

Cattle thieves were also a problem, calling for straight shooting and united posse action. In the absence of other recourse, and possibly sometimes in defiance of other recourse, when a thief was captured he could often look forward to "Judge Lynch" in the form of a handy tree limb and a length of rope.

The coming of the southern extension of the MK&T Railroad in 1882 divided the Pietzch and Bartlett property almost along the original boundary lines.

By this time both Pietzch and Bartlett had become real estate operators and a number of sturdy, skilled farmers of German extraction had been attracted to the area by the fertile soil and long growing season.

Pietzch and Bartlett called in a surveyor and the original town of Bartlett was laid out into lots and the railroad company was persuaded to establish a station. Bartlett opened a grocery and hardware store and was to become the town's first banker.

The town itself was named after Captain Bartlett and the principal streets after members of the Pietzch family.

For many years the businesses which steadily sprang up were located along the west side of the railroad tracks, tending to spread more and more to the east in the late 90s.

The first wedding in Bartlett is said to have united Mollie Moss and a Dr. Wright. Miss Moss was the daughter of A. Moss, the first dry goods merchant.

Jack and Frank Felton erected the first hotel and the first cotton gin. Arthur McKnight opened the first livery stable.

Tom McKnight was the first postmaster.

The first lumberyard and blacksmith shop was operated by W. J. Stevens.

Bartlett in 1890 was quite a village and its enter-

prising citizens began to feel the growing pains of progress. A meeting was called and the village was incorporated. The first mayor was Dr. J. M. Strayhorn. John Laughlin was the first marshal and the board of aldermen was made up of E. F. Kelley, A. Moss, Arthur McKnight, C. L. Meissner and W. F. Powell. By 1900 the population had reached more than 1,000.

Describing the effect of the coming of the railroad, the Bartlett Tribune in 1937 said: "The cinders from the high smokestacks of the little engines were like rich pollen falling upon fertile blossoms."

Probably the housewives, with white sheets on the clotheslines, thought differently, but with the introduction of diesel engines, cinders became a thing of the past.

The rest of the West may have had some pretty good cowboys, but Bartlett can boast of being the home of the only man known to have saddled and ridden a locomotive.

It was, admittedly, a rough ride—an unplanned ride which cost the rider a good horse.

In 1921 Hugh Morrison was loading cattle for shipment from a cattle pen then located near the Bartlett depot.

An approaching freight train so frightened the horse Mr. Morrison was riding that the animal jumped right into the path of the locomotive.

Iron horse struck "horse horse" in such a freak manner that the saddle girth was snapped and the saddle and rider flew through the air and landed on the cow catcher of the engine with Mr. Morrison still in the saddle doing the "ride 'em cowboy" bit.

The saddle stuck to the engine and the rider stuck to the saddle until the train could be stopped.

The horse had been killed instantly, but Mr. Morrison was not seriously injured and the only damage to the saddle was the broken girth.

This incident was reported in the Bartlett Tribune on Sept. 17, 1937, while that city was celebrating its 50th anniversary.

OLD ROUND HALL

Buildings, especially when they are unusual, have a way of almost becoming a "member of the family," so to speak. Such was the Old Round Hall of the Holland, Bartlett area.

About 1908, the lodge known as Sons of Herman built a small square building three miles southeast of Holland. It was used for monthly lodge meetings and sometimes as a private school.

Two years later a large octagonal addition was made to this building, a shed for the purveying of refreshments was built and Round Hall became the social center of the community. There were dances, picnics, masquerade balls, Fourth of July speeches and many other types of get-togethers.

For the annual May Fest, members of the lodge would select a king and a queen. Sometimes a parade a mile long would come from Holland, headed by a marshal and a brass band who were followed by farm wagons converted into decorated floats and buggies full of celebrants.

Four brothers and four sisters of the Dusek family made up a good part of a band which furnished music for many years.

One hot Sunday afternoon when the building was about 30 years old the Sons of Herman gathered for a meeting. Somehow a fire got started in the tall grass outside and spread to the building. The Old Round Hall was soon no more.



THE OLD ROUND HALL

However, another organization was to take over. For the consideration of \$1 per month, the SPJST Lodge had been using Round Hall for its meetings. In recent years this organization has built a large hall one half mile southeast of Holland which is now the center of many of the activities which once were held at Round Hall.

Sons of Herman officers were for many years Frank Krause, president; Will Treuhardt, secretary; and Frank Wendler, treasurer. Present officers are Gus Biels, president; Edgar Eckermann, secretary; and W. M. Eckermann, treasurer.

From an old group photograph of Sons of Herman, these old-timers are recognized: Frank Bunte, Gus Biels, Otto Eckermann, Carl Petzolt, Andrew Lindemann, J. D. Romberg, Will Dusek, Otto Beyer, John Sumner, Fred Gommert, John Woytek, Rudolf Gruning, Louis Stabeno, Henry Druessedow, Adolf Groppe, Henry Steinhauer, Frank Malina, Joe Balusek, John Lindemann, Karl Bartels and Justin Pressler.

REA CO-OP

The Bartlett region was the first Rural Electrification Co-op to be energized in Texas and this program which was started more than two decades ago has blossomed into a giant enterprise which serves electricity to 2,150 accounts in big chunks of Bell, Williamson and Milam Counties.

The electricity first found its way to the farms

in the area in 1936.

Crewmen who set the first pole were Fred Shadoan, Curtis Holstein, Charles Stokes, Charles Pickle, Ed Mullis, Jeff Irvin, Oscar Cowsert, lineman, and H. M. Keith, foreman. Charles Saage of near Bartlett threw the switch which sent lights into the first farm house in the area.

R. W. Miller, who had fathered the building of a municipal power plant for Bartlett, took the lead in getting the rural project under way. William G. Morrison was contractor.

In the early days of the Co-op people used electricity largely for electric lights. Today they have this electrical giant doing a heavy share of the farm and home work. With the coming of electricity merchants and others who serve farmers found a better economic outlook with increased sales. The result was that communities served by the co-op were solidified and strengthened.

Several farmers worked hard to get the service into the area. They were W. R. Janke, who has been president of the co-op since it was organized; E. M. Steglich, vice president all of the years, and Robert Friedrich, who has served the same period as secretary.

H. M. Keith is manager of Bartlett REA Co-op, succeeding Miller in 1944.

Directors at present are Tom Douglas, Graham Looney, Joe Zejicek, Willie J. Tonn, W. F. Fisher and R. M. Shavers. J. V. Morris is attorney for the organization.



HOLLAND ABOUT 1900



FIRST STATE BANK—Founded by the Reed brothers, this was located at the northeast corner of Austin and Travis.

HOLLAND

A fine, two-story rock house some two and a half miles south of the present Holland was built in 1866 by a Captain Evans and became a sort of community gathering place for the few families around it. The community became known as Mountain Home because of little Gotcher's Mountain just to the south.

Spring-fed Darra Creek did not run dry and good wells could be had at from 10 to 20 feet deep. Cotton was beginning to come into its place as a leading money crop and Newt Wright and Pete Harold became co-owners of a steam-powered gin.

A Dr. Green married Church Wilkerson's daughter and built a spacious two-story home on the east side of the creek which was years later to become the long-time home of LaMott Bradley.

The Evans home, long since crumbled, had its ghost tales, if only to amuse Uncle Will Benton who lived there with his wife for 22 years and as a widower for 20 years by 1936 when he was featured in the Centennial edition of the Temple Daily Telegram.

He'd point out to visitors that of course he did not believe in ghosts, but . . . for 30 years each night he had heard the clear voice of a woman call out "Hello!" at the front gate.

This ghost business was in some way supposed to be connected with a fight that had taken place at one of the early dances. Although nobody was killed there was a legend that the loser of the knife battle

had been buried in the basement of the old home when he died later of other causes.

With the coming of the railroad most of Mountain Home moved to the all-important tracks and applied for a post office. There was already a Mountain Home, so the town took the name of Holland after Rube Holland who ran a gin across the creek from the big Evans home.

In 1881 when the railroad ran the first cars over the new track a celebration was called for. Everybody who could crowd on flatcars was invited to a picnic at the little settlement of Sparks a couple of miles up the road.

This must have been one fine picnic, for accounts of it appear in an extraordinarily large number. Everyone seems to agree that the women were in for a lot of kidding when their white linen dresses and dusts became begrimed with the soot from the locomotive.

Bell County's first sheriff was William Reed who settled with his father and brother Jefferson east of Holland in the 1830s.

So stores and houses were built, many of brick and stone. The Reed State Bank and the First National Bank came into being. As a market place and a shipping point Holland prospered in the heyday of cotton and before the days of motor transport. There was even an opera house.

Holland today is a good place to live and is surrounded by prosperous farms and ranches, served by good churches and schools.



COTTON TIME IN ROGERS IN 1909

ROGERS

Rogers, now a nice quiet place in which to live and raise a family, at one time reportedly shipped more cotton than any other town in the state, but that was years ago.

The town was named in 1881 for John D. Rogers, Galveston capitalist and official of the Santa Fe Railroad.

Early families were the Reeds, the Bighams, Capt. Shade Nichols, the Thomases, the Hendricks, the Copelands, the Baughs and the Skinners.

Cotton shippers, cattle buyers, general store operators, men who came with the railroads, and men who were lured by the rich soil built themselves a boom town. Those were the days when Teed Moore bought 8,000 to 12,000 bales of cotton each year.

The town had its rough days. There were plenty of pistol packers and it wasn't difficult to get a scrap started.

The town originally was known as The Knobs and was famous for the legend of 40 jack loads of Spanish bullion which is supposed to be buried in the area. If so, the Spaniards did a good job because no one has found the treasure. Younts Hill which provides the approach from the west had a special place in the early history because of the difficulty which horses, mule teams and early model autos had in conquering the grade. When the new highway was laid it skirted the hill.

A fire destroyed one of the main blocks of the

business section in 1923 and this misfortune had a marked effect upon the town.

J. D. King was the town's first mayor and Joe Booker had the first store. The town was incorporated in 1899.

CYCLONE

A town named Cyclone, so named after an unusually windy period for its residents, was founded in 1882 and is located about 17 miles east of Temple and one mile south of Highway 53.

Dr. McCall operated the first store, a grocery, in the settlement and a Mr. Ratliff opened the second one, a Grange store carrying a stock of dry goods and groceries.

The post office was opened about 1886. A meeting was held to name the place and after much discussion a delegate observed that the meeting had been so windy that the town should be called Cyclone. A settlement had existed on the spot prior to opening of the first store.

Among the early settlers who lived there around 1879 were Joe Geistman and his father, Anton Geistman, Jim McGinnis, a Mr. Booth, Charlie Osborne, George and William Lagrone, Charlie Steadevandt, C. Schmidt, Ernst Opitz, Mrs. Fritz Schneider, and Sam Elliott.

Sam Hunter was the first postmaster.



BUSINESS STREET AT TROY IN 1909

TROY

Troy in the northeastern part of the county on the MK&T Railroad was first named Elm Creek between 1865 and 1870 and was about two and one-half miles northwest of its present location.

The settlement was an exchange point for the stagecoach horses going from Waco to Austin and many a weary traveler stopped there in the olden days.

The name Elm Creek led to much confusion as there also was a post office in the southern part of the state called Alum Creek. About 1875, Tommy Elliott and J. Q. Thompson wrote the Post Office Department in Washington for permission to change the name to Troy and permission was granted.

When the railroad, in 1882, accepted a tract of land from Owen S. Carpenter the town was moved to the new site, but many of the residents refused to accept the new town and remained in "Old Troy."

Some of the early citizens and businessmen at Old Troy were George C. Pendleton, former lieutenant governor; Uncle Mike Elliott, tavern keeper and stage livery stable manager; Uncle Asa Elliott who ran the old treadwheel gin; and Dr. W. L. Harris, a teacher.

The Troy Enterprise was initiated in 1887 and its first editor was B. H. Simpson who published the paper weekly. In 1895 Silas T. Compton became editor and published the paper for several years. Other editors were J. M. Lawrence, Andrew McBeath, S. S. Bell and W. D. Boliver. At Boliver's death in 1916 his son, Wilson D. Boliver, became editor

and published the paper until 1924 when it was discontinued.

In 1895 the residents put down an artesian well which today still furnishes water to the people of the town.

Among the first ginners in Troy was a Mr. Norris and Chat Bottoms and A. H. Curtis. Bottoms operated his first gin about 1891 and 1892, later moving five miles southeast of Troy where he operated a gin and became so well established that the place was named Bottoms. Curtis was perhaps the oldest gin operator in Troy, having operated a gin there for almost a half century.

J. Q. Thompson owned and operated a gin at Shiloh, two and one-half miles northeast of Troy in 1894. He also at one time ran a grocery in Troy called "Spot Cash."

The Maedgen Grain Company did a thriving business in Troy in early 1902 and at one time Earnest and William Maedgen owned and operated a bank in Troy. The bank later was moved to Temple and consolidated with the Temple National Bank.

Some of the first settlers in the area, the backbone of the community, were J. F. Spohn, J. W.

Hughes, Uncle Charlie Meyers, Owen S. Carpenter, J. W. Teaff, Gus Maedgen, F. H. Roberts, Uncle Bobby Cox, John Cullins, J. W. Porter, Mortz Maedgen, Uncle Mike Elliott, Dr. W. L. Harrison, J. N. Smith, J. Q. Thompson, W. P. Green, A. Sharp, F. M. Nichols and C. W. Kennon.



GOING EAST FROM TROY—This scene was taken going east from town to the top of the hill. Note the dirt road, frail bridge which crosses

King's Branch and well-fenced yards. The board sidewalks of another day also were a part of this scene.

CARPENTER FAMILY, PUBLIC BENEFACTORS

The 40-acre site of the original town of Troy was a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Owen S. Carpenter. Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter also gave the land for the original school at Troy, which was known as King's Branch School, and for the present high school.

In her husband's memory, Mrs. Carpenter gave the

state the land for the public roadside park just north of Troy on Highway 81. This fact is shown on a marker at the park site.

Owen P. Carpenter, president of the First National Bank at Belton, is a grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Owen S. Carpenter.



WOW HALL—The WOW Hall was built at Troy in 1909. The frame building at left was at one time the post office. Mrs. W. S. Hickerson

was Troy's first postmistress. Other postmasters have been Decatur Robinson, Bob Elliott, L. M. Hatcher, J. M. Griffin and Hugh E. Weir.

BUCKHORN

Perhaps those who say that rural, small community life has died out look too closely at their statistics and not closely enough at the facts. With changes in details, this little story of Buckhorn is representative of life in other rural communities too numerous to mention.

Sprawled loosely for some 10 miles near Brewster Creek in northwest Bell County is the rural community of Buckhorn, whose nearest neighbors are Whitehall and Moody.

Local legend has it that the community got its name because the first settlers found the antlers of a large buck deer in a tree where the animal had apparently become entangled and died.

Buckhorn is known for its lively oldsters, folks around 90 who refuse to give up their independence.

An article by Martha Bowmer in the Moody Courier of Dec. 12, 1957, told of some of the goings-on in the community.

There was John Comer, aged 90, who could still "maneuver about in a speedy fashion."

For years Comer operated a drug store—"Most of my education I got out of almanacs," and for information on compounding prescriptions he studied the United States Dispensary, copyrighted in 1894.

On Sept. 29, 1941, Comer suddenly decided to retire. No dilly-dallying around about him. He just locked the door to his store with its fair stock of merchandise and the rack of 1907 picture postcards and the barrel of pre-hinge-era clothespins. "I guess you could say I got a little overstocked on those two items," he philosophized.

At the time of the newspaper article the store still stood as it was left years before. Comer had not been back, although he had not gone far because he lived next door—alone, the way he seemed to want it. His daughter, Mrs. C. C. Carlisle, lived just across the road and could look in every day at the home with a modern television set in the living room and a Model T in the garage.

Then there was Mrs. Sophie Beerwinkle, an active 89, who was in the habit of removing her glasses so that she could see well enough to put the crochet fringe on the needlework gifts for which she was well known.

On a side road leading toward Stampede Creek lived William Schuette, 82, and his wife, 76—still actively farming, "even if the old mule did get tired and die last year."

Mrs. Schuette was well known for her prodigious activity in her vegetable and flower gardens. Her husband liked the good things to eat and the pretty flowers but remarked, "Some night my wife is going to get rattlesnake bit, because she sits out there and waters those flowers at 10 at night."

Some of the churches and the school have been consolidated with Moody institutions, but social life still is active around the Moody-Leon Methodist Church where Rev. Brooks Collums is pastor.

The menfolks visit and "allow" this and that at the store of J. E. Key.

The womenfolks have their Good Neighbor Club, a sort of reciprocal aid organization with companionship an important sideline if not the main advantage. Members meet monthly at one of the members' houses and all pitch in to do what needs to be done at the time, be it cleaning the house, working in the garden or canning fruit and vegetables. It has been said that quilting is becoming a lost art with the advent of electric blankets and central heat, but the Good Neighbor Club has completed 15 quilts in three years. The number of recipes which have been swapped would be anybody's guess, but it would be safe to say that the families of the Buckhorn community enjoy living.



J. F. LANCASTER AT CORNER OF AVE. B, TEMPLE

HAY BRANCH

Hay Branch, on the old road between Nolanville and Killeen, received its name in a very logical manner, according to Walter M. Bacon, who moved to that community with his parents in 1882. Lots of hay was raised and it would be stacked high on each side of a small branch, a tributary of Nolan Creek. Hence the name, suggested by a Mrs. Jordan and picked up by others.

On the east side of the branch stands a pile of rocks, the remains of an old oxen-powered cotton gin. An improved steam-type gin with a capacity of two bales a day was later built by W. G. Murphy, a first settler. When Murphy arrived there were but three families living between Hay Branch and Killeen—Berry, Sims and Burdette. Exact dates of the coming of these families are unavailable, but it is known they all had trouble with the Indians in the early days.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Middleton were traveling westward in 1868 when their wagon broke down at Hay Branch—so they just settled on a farm nearby and remained there the rest of their lives.

Mrs. Nettie Bacon is credited with organizing the first church at Hay Branch. W. M. Bacon donated an acre of land and \$25 to get carpenter Nate Smith started on the building so that Rev. Griggs would have a place to preach.

Among early family names on the church roster were Murphy, Love, Mercer and McKee.

The Hay Branch school was built across the road in 1882 on land donated by W. G. Murphy. The Santa Fe right-of-way crossed the school district and pro-

vided some welcome revenue from the sale of land for a roadbed. Teachers had to make the fires, superintend all the janitorial work and often lived with the families of their students.

In 1888 Mrs. Annie Murphy Moore's first grade teacher at Hay Branch was Mrs. Jessie Allaman Harrell. In 1957 both teacher and pupil were living in Belton.—Compiled by Mrs. T. E. Mangrem.

STILLHOUSE HOLLOW

Some maps show a section marked Stillhouse Hollow a short distance southwest of Belton and south of Highway 190.

From W. I. Brunham, born "just across the Lampasas River from Cedar Knob Mountain" and now living in San Angelo comes a clue as to how the area received its name.

Although he came along years later, Mr. Burnham recalls his maternal grandfather, W. S. Ellis, and his father, J. A. Burnham, speaking of an old whiskey distillery that operated in the hollow, probably in the early 80s. And what did a gallon jug of giggle water cost? Ten cents!

He also heard tales of the "bottomless well" a mile or so east and covered with logs and brush for more than 50 years. This well was being dug by I. T. Ellis and another man when their drill disappeared in the earth. The men rounded up all the rope in the neighborhood and lowered a weight into the hole. Still no bottom was found and another legend was born.

Mr. Burnham's maternal great-grandfather, Benjamin Ellis, came to Bell County about 1848.



LONG AGO AT BELLFALLS GIN

AN OLDTIMER TALKS

J. J. Bishop of Brownsville was born in Bell County Aug. 20, 1866, and his recollections of the development of the country are a graphic description of another era.

"In the Spring of 1849," he writes, "my grandfather, Joseph Bishop, while traveling over Texas hunting a good place to locate a 320-acre tract of land to make a home, camped on Nolan Creek where Belton now stands. There was not a house there at the time.

"A man rode up on horseback and offered to sell him land there for 75 cents per acre. Grandfather thought the price was too high and drove on to Moffat and camped where a huge spring flowed out from under a hill. The water trickled off into the Leon River nearby.

"There was no settler at Moffat at that time and none farther west of the river.

"The next morning a big Indian appeared near the tent, standing and looking at his new neighbors. Old Bull, the dog, wanted to take the Indian, but was suppressed.

"At this time there was a small settlement on the Leon two and one-half miles below the Bishop camp. During the late spring and summer of 1849 the Leon River got on a rampage and wiped out the settlement. Later in the year the residents of the settlement set up at the big spring. Among the settlers was Dr. Moffat for whom the place was named.

"My grandfather preempted a place on Stampede Creek about five miles southwest of where Moody was located.

"In April 1850, an election was held to name five commissioners to lay out the county and locate a county seat. My grandfather and my father, Sam W. Bishop, were present at that election. My grandfather voted but my father was only 18, too young.

"Josiah Hart was elected one of the commissioners. His wife was my grandfather's sister.

"I came on the scene in 1866. I have ridden over the bald prairie where Temple now stands, before the townsite was located. The only house in sight at that time belonged to a Mr. Black, the father of several sons who became prominent businessmen in Temple.

"I entered Salado College as a pupil Jan. 1, 1883. On Aug. 3, 1887, I appeared before a board of examiners at Belton for a teacher's certificate. Prof. S. J. Jones was a member of that board. Professor Wedemier who was head of the Wedemier High School in Belton at that time was also a member. Frank Andrews was the other member and was superintendent of the Belton Public Schools. After examining my paper the board recommended that I receive a First Grade certificate. Joe Rosborough was county judge and issued the certificate.

"I began my 15-year teaching career in Bell

County at Heidenheimer in the fall of 1887. I was a member of the board of examiners for teachers' certificates under three county superintendents. They were Henry Orgain, Felix Humphries and W. W. Higgens."

THE LAST MASSACRE

The last and best remembered of the murderous Indian incursions into Bell County came March 18, 1859 when two members of the Riggs family were massacred and two of their children were kidnapped.

John Riggs, with his wife, Jane, and four children had but recently settled in Bell County near Sugar Loaf Mountain, not far from Cow House Creek on a little stream called Post Oak branch. They hadn't built a permanent home yet when the massacre came.

Riggs, assisted by David Elms, a lad of about 14, was hauling cedar posts to construct a fence for the small herd of cattle he owned. They were attacked by the Indians and during the fight Elms made his escape. Riggs was wounded by an arrow which went through his hand.

Mrs. Riggs witnessed the incident and believing that the temporary house would give little protection against an attack, fled with the children for a neighbor's house. When the father saw them running he cut across the prairie and joined them about 200 yards from the house. The Indians spotted them in the open and bore down, killing both the parents. However, the Indians overlooked the two little boys in the tall grass but took the little girls up behind them on their horses. The Indians plundered the house before they rode away.

Then the Indians rode south, across the Nolen about two miles below where Killeen now stands. They stole several horses from Charlie Cruger and some neighboring farms and moved further south.

While stopping to eat, the Indians spied a Mr. Peevy whom they killed and as they were holding a dance around his body a group of white men approached.

The Indians immediately fled, leaving the two little girls they had taken as hostages. The white men were a posse which had been organized when the massacre became known.

The Indians never were overtaken but several of the horses they had taken were recovered.

ATTENTION TIRED HOUSEWIVES . . .

Do household chores make you all worn out and cranky even with all your modern conveniences?

Inscription which was copied from a grave in the old Sugar Loaf cemetery:

"Sarah Scoggin, born 1779, died Jan. 22, 1882. Gone to meet her 18 children and three husbands."

Wonder what conveniences she had in her busy life.



PENDLETON, 1908—Methodist Church and a gin are seen in the background. Store at right is that of J. N. Elkins.

SOME CZECH COMMUNITIES

In the 1880s, Bell County's "last frontier," the eastern section, was still largely a land of brush, timber and mud.

Then settlers began coming in, most of them of Czechoslovakian extraction. They were a sturdy, thrifty people with farming know-how. Many of them could speak no English and they tended to band together for companionship and mutual aid. A few families would settle in an area and a new village would be born.

Frank Motl, then a Seaton storekeeper, recalled in an interview in 1936 that several families arrived in that vicinity by ox wagon about Christmas, 1881. They included Frank and Vinc Motl, the Matula family, E. Bartek, John Holau, Paul Reznick and John Vasek.

Seaton was first known as Lost Prairie. Little more than cow trails connected it with the new village of Temple. Settlers would go the eight or so miles to Temple one day, attend to their business, spend the night and return home the next day. Moving into the Seaton community about 1883 were several Lesikar brothers, John Hruska and Joe Simek. Frank Matejka opened a store and saloon at Seaton in 1891. Frank Motl became his partner in 1893 and started a long career as sole operator of the busi-

ness the next year.

Among other early Czech communities were Ocker, Ratibor, Cyclone, Meeks, Oscar, Airville, Red Ranger and Marekville, which later became Sefcikville.

Ratibor pioneers included John Naviar, John Machalek, Tom Talasek, Joe Medford and Anton Sodek. John Simek and Ben Lesikar settled in the Red Ranger area.

At Meeks were Frank Marek, Annie Schiller and John Bartek.

Zabcikville came along a little later, named for John Zabcik. Another early resident of the community was Joe Schiller.

There were other Czech settlements in the county, some of which are mentioned elsewhere in this book.

The men were usually very active in their lodges. When there was a lodge dance or outing to be held, the whole family from grandma on down to the newest baby would often attend and everybody participated in the fun.

With the improvements in transportation and communications most of the Czech settlements have ceased to exist as separate entities, but a glance at the telephone directories of Bell County shows that there are still lots of Czechs around, many of them community leaders.



SECOND STORE—R. J. Marek, left, bought this store in 1924 and operated it for several years. Also shown are Mrs. Marek and her father, Felix Kunz.



PRESENT STORE



SCHOOL GROUP, 1915—R. J. Marek is holding the flag, behind which is the blacksmith shop. Timothy Weller then taught at Red Ranger.



COMMUNITY MUSIC MAKER—Silvester Bartek brings his old hand organ to weddings, lodge meetings, parties and other events. He lives in the Meeks community.



LAST RED RANGER TEACHER—Miss Marie Johnson is shown in front of the old school in 1948. She is now Mrs. Leroy Schiller.

These pictures tell a little of the story of the community of Red Ranger, located between Rogers and Zabcikville in the eastern part of the county. The Red Ranger school was consolidated with Rogers in 1949 and the building has been moved to Cyclone, the materials to be used by St. Joseph's Catholic Church. The old blacksmith shop is no more, but the modern traveler can get about anything he needs at the Red Ranger store.

NEW COLONY

The New Colony community is located five miles northeast of Rogers in the fertile, black farmlands of east Bell County. It lies along Elm Creek and its South Fork and is adjoined by the communities of Rogers, Edgeworth, Meeks, Red Ranger, and Leedale.

In the early 1900s this area was only partially cleared of timber and brush and was sparsely settled by only a few Czech families who had come from such places as Cyclone, Seaton, Buckholts and some of the earlier Czech settlements in South Texas. Most of these families were settled around what are now the Edgeworth and South Elm communities and the nearest school was at South Elm.

The years 1905 and 1906 saw a great influx of Czech families from Elgin and Taylor who settled near the present New Colony. Among new family names were Dusek, Jezek, Shenkir, Jirasev and Shiller.

The organizational meeting of a local lodge was held Jan. 20, 1907, on the Vine Shiller farm. The name chosen for the lodge and the community was Nova Osada, which translates to New Colony in English.

The surnames of the 19 charter members are listed below. Many are in the original Czech spelling which is sometimes different from the present spelling but will likely be recognized:

Bolf, Cervenka, Dusek, Ilarbus, Jezek, Jirasck, Mikeska, Senkyr, Siler and Tydlaeka. (Some families were represented by several members, but the given names on the copy provided were not legible in some cases.)

The first lodge hall was begun in December of 1908 on an acre of land donated by John Shenkir, the location of the present New Colony Community Center. There was \$153.62 in the building fund.

This hall later was used as a public school building.

Throughout its long history the lodge has lived up to its stated purposes of providing good insurance protection, benevolent services and fraternal association to its members and their families.

In 1957 two charter members were still active in the lodge—Emil Shiller of Rogers and Nykela Harbus of Grand Prairie, Dallas County.—Compiled by C. C. Chervenka of Rogers.



A BUSY PLACE—The present New Colony community center was constructed and furnished by neighborhood volunteers in 1951. The picture of the crowd was the occasion of a barbecue enjoyed by the folks of New Colony and surrounding communities.



OLD-TIMER HONORED—New Colony SPJST Lodge 69 charter member Emil Shiller of Rt. 2, Rogers is congratulated by Lodge President Calvin C. Chervenka on the 50th anniversary of the Jan. 20, 1907, founding of the lodge.



OLD OENAVILLE TELEPHONE OFFICE



PENDLETON DEPOT, 1895

LITTLE FLOCK

Elm Creek, a stream whose banks are dotted with tall elm trees, was the drawing card which populated Little Flock Community on the fringe area of Temple.

The never-dry stream runs through rich, fertile farms whose row crops are among the best in the nation.

In 1875 eight people flocked together and pooled money to build a house of worship in what was to become Little Flock Community, some 30 minutes from Temple.

Later, they built a school near the creek but overflow waters forced them to move the structure to higher ground, where they built the present school which has in recent years been enlarged and remodeled.

Two churches and a large cemetery also are located in the thickly populated community.

Consolidation marked the beginning of the modern trend for all rural schools and soon the Little Flock children found school miles lengthened as they rode busses to the Temple schools. This left a vacant building in Little Flock and on July 29, 1954, a meeting of 35 families was held to organize a new school. This school became well known as The Adult School of Education. It offers programs on better living, better farming and better ways of making a living.

C. P. Vickery, vocational agriculture teacher in Temple, was chosen to direct the Little Flock school. From this school developed instruction on the latest farming developments, organization of clubs for community betterment and civic projects in which the entire community joins.



RUBBER TIRES, TOO! 1909



HEIDENHEIMER POST OFFICE

DING DONG

Some time in the early 1930s two men bought a country store on the Lampasas River about midway between Killeen and Florence at what was then known as McBryde Crossing.

A new business deserved a new sign, so C. C. Hoover was contacted and agreed to paint one.

Hoover hied himself to the Stokes-Blair Hardware Company at Florence to purchase paint and fell into a conversation with the store manager, Fred Foster.

Foster learned the purpose to which the paint was to be put and that the new store owners were Zulis Bell and his nephew Bert Bell. Then he pondered the sign painter before him. Hoover was not only a good sign painter; he was an artist who could do pleasant things with oil paints on canvas, a man who could draw pictures as well as letter.

"This sign," Foster said, "Why don't you do something original. How about drawing two bells with the name Zulis in one and Bert in the other? Then print 'Ding Dong' on the sign."

It was so done and has attracted attention far and wide, including a writeup by Believe It or Not Ripley featuring the DING DONG store owned by the BELLS in the County of BELL and a place on the map.



TRAIN WRECK AT TROY, 1909

GHOST TOWNS OF BELL COUNTY

(The following excerpts were taken from a paper prepared by Mrs. C. B. Wade of Belton and read at a meeting of Sam Houston Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, in February, 1950).

A ghost is an apparition — a shadow — a false image or perhaps a disappearing or vanishing object. A ghost town is a place that has been inhabited — a place whose people have lived and enjoyed life and made history. These towns have gone into decay and we find foundations, walls of homes, churches, schools and stores that are no more or perhaps it is just a memory of a settlement, a community or a neighborhood.

LIVE OAK

A community known as Live Oak began in 1854. It could hardly be called a town, as it had no business houses. Thomas Gilmore, a Methodist circuit rider, held a revival at Pecan Grove on the north side of Salado Creek. Here the neighbors built a little board school and church house. Both Methodists and Baptists preached here. In 1857 the people decided to move the meeting place to a more central location under a spreading live oak tree, and gave it the name of Live Oak. A brush arbor with split log benches served temporarily for a meeting place. In 1859 a commodious log building was erected and served the people for many years.

REED'S LAKE

On the south bank of Little River, the first settlement was made by Michael Reed. With him and his two sons and other families. In this vicinity we find "The Knobs" well known landmarks, now near Rogers.

MOUNTAIN HOME

The oldest landmark in the Holland Community is an old rock house two and one-half miles south of Holland. Darro Creek was nearby, a gin and store and a post office known as Mountain Home. When the MK&T RR laid its tracks, this community, because of the railroad's situation, decided to move up around the station and took the name of Holland.

SHANKLIN MILL

The history of Shanklin Mill, the first in Central Texas, is romantic. Robert Childers and Tom Waldon constructed a little grist mill run by water power in 1847. The mill consisted of a small tub with a makeshift dam and race and was driven by a spring branch just off the Lampasas River. It was made up of a hopper, one pair of burrs and two large barrels constructed on a wooden frame. There was no roof. A buffalo hide was stretched over the barrels to keep the wild turkeys from eating the corn.

The mill had to run day and night to grind 10 to

15 bushels of corn. A two days' run lasted the community for two weeks. Those who came from afar could not wait for the slow process of grinding, so they exchanged corn for the meal kept ground and on hand for that purpose by the miller.

In the early days settlers were attracted to the mills and the Childers' mill was not an exception. A thriving settlement grew up. The land was fertile. A group of Mormons settled in the community and at one time, when the mill got out of order, a Mormon was called in to fix it and run it for a time, thus it became known by some as Mormon's Mill.

One log cabin was the sole habitation in the vicinity of Childers' Mill when it was built. But the settlement grew and a man named Supples started a store; a "singing school" was started and the "four note system" was taught. Later, a school was opened, but soon closed and a writing school was opened with more success.

The Childers' settlement later became a stage stop on the road from San Antonio to Nacogdoches. In 1850 Supples sold his store to John Paine who moved it to the newly designated town of Belton.

But the mill still thrived. In 1856 the Shanklin family, which had just moved to the county from Tennessee, bought the property and continued to operate the mill. Later the Shanklins built a large native limestone house which is still standing. (It has recently been purchased and restored by Dr. and Mrs. Jamie Barton, lately of Temple).

OLD AIKEN

Old Aiken on the Leon, about four miles south of Moffat, is one of the oldest towns in Bell County. All that remains of this metropolis which thrived in the early 1850s and during the Civil War and for some time thereafter, is a few crumbling piles of stone strewn about a few crumbling chimneys, a rock foundation or two to a house, or the old basement to what was once a thriving hat factory.

You descend Kuykendall Hill, about the center of which you will find the old Kuykendall home where the Matt Kuykendall family lived during the mid-century. Remnants of the old home, which was once the home of Ab Kuykendall of Temple, and Mrs. J. H. Evetts of Anson, mother of Jim Evetts of Belton, may be seen in the underbrush about 100 feet off the old road.

Before and during the Civil War 600 persons lived



A REMINDER—These stones and trees are all that remain of the once bustling Aiken. The wall was part of the hat factory. The Confederate distillery which shipped whiskey to the outer world by ox wagons was here and a hundred coal oil lamps once burned in the night.

in Old Aiken. Where a hundred lights from coal oil lamps once gleamed in the night, one solitary light may now be seen. In the old days, the Confederate distillery, which shipped its output of whiskeys to the outer world by ox wagons, stood there. There were other establishments, stores, saloons. It was a trading post of a pioneer people who traveled the twisting trails through the timber to the largest town in the county, perhaps, except Belton.

This trading center was named after Col. Herman Aiken, a deep sea captain, pioneering merchant, surveyor, farmer, stockraiser, who established Casa Blanca ranch, seven miles north of Belton, now known as the Ed Flint place.

With the demise of Old Aiken, Moffat grew up as its successor.

Another of the early towns in the vicinity of Moffat is Bland. It was founded about 1880 by Colonel John Atkerson. It was first called Pokerville, since the legend goes that when the colonel sold a bill of goods to a customer he invited him into the back room to play for his change. History is vague on the point but it is presumed the colonel usually won.

Since Pokerville is not a dignified name for a town, in 1894 when the town got a post office, the name Bland was selected by the post office department from five names submitted. Contrary to general opinion, the name was not after any specific person, although a Bland family once lived in that section.

TROY

While Troy is not a ghost town, the first town of that name was situated on Elm Creek about two miles north of its present location. It was moved when the railroad was surveyed through that section. Its initial name was Elm Creek and it was the old stage line stop on the Waco and Belton to Austin stage line. In the late 1870s when the town secured a post office, at the suggestion of Uncle Asa Elliott the name of Troy was decided on by him, O.

S. Carpenter and J. O. Thompson and accepted by the post office department in Washington.

In 1883 the first whisper of a railroad for this section was heard and the survey crossed the homestead of O. S. Carpenter who at once offered 40 acres of land to the railroad for a townsite. The railroad accepted and the town of Troy was moved to its present location. Many pioneers of the old Elm Creek refused to recognize the new Troy and remained in what became known as Old Troy.

OLD HOWARD

If you drive to Old Howard about five miles north of Temple, you will see a school, a number of farm homes and several old houses. That is about all. But in the days of stage coach and cattle drives, Howard was a stopping place for travelers, a focal point for herds of cattle being accumulated to be driven on months-long routes to Kansas markets. If the calendar was turned back nearly three-quarters of a century, you would find the Howard of those days a traffic center of Bell County, even before the county was known as such. Old timers recall having heard of \$10,000 changing hands in one day in cattle deals. There was no hotel in Old Howard, but the home of Silas Baggett was open to travelers who stopped overnight. The home still stands like a sentinel atop a hill that overlooks miles of prairie country.

The old stage road that ran between Austin and Waco was somewhat of a parallel to the old cattle trail that wound through the county. George Pendleton, later lieutenant governor of Texas, lived in the Howard community, as well as many others who came into the limelight in Central Texas history. But time has wiped out most of the landmarks and there is now no sign today of that early village on the hill.

The list is long, but space forbids a full history or description of them all. There was Old Nashville, the ancient capital of Robertson's colony and Milam County. There was Bryant's Station, Birdsdales (now Temple), Bird's Creek, Mount Vernon, Sulphur Springs, Old Oenaville, Tanyard, Echo and perhaps others whose histories were interwoven with the early days of Bell County and before. They have passed into oblivion and nothing remains of most of them today but a dim memory of their names.

Old records show the county's first post office was established at Belton Oct. 4, 1850 with William D. Eastland as postmaster.

A year later Marlin opened its own office and Gatesville followed within three years.

By 1895 there were many post offices in Bell County — Belfalls, Belton, Brookhaven, Cyclone, Donoho, Echo, Heidenheimer, Holland, Killeen, Little River, Maxdale, Moffat, Nolanville, Ocker, Oenaville, Parkdale, Pendleton, Rogers, Salado, Seaton, Sparta, Summers Mills, Temple, Troy, Vilas and Youngsfort.

TALES OF THE PAST . . .



TEXAS VETERANS MEETING IN BELTON

BATTLE OF BIRD'S CREEK

Perhaps the earliest recorded historical event known to have taken place in the immediate vicinity of Temple was the battle of Bird's Creek.

In 1839 a Mexican named Cordova instigated an uprising of the Indians of the area in connection with the plans of Mexican troops in the lower part of the state.

While awaiting the arrival of Cordova, the Indians—5,000 of them—contented themselves with minor depredations.

Mirabeau B. Lamar, president of the Republic of Texas, ordered several companies of Rangers into the field with Captain Bird of Fort Bend County in charge of a company on Little River, then an outpost. The captain, stationed on the Colorado River, inter-

cepted the party from Mexico, defeated them in battle and took much plunder from them.

Before becoming aware of the Mexican defeat, the Indians attracted the attention of Captain Bird who was at Fort Griffin at Three Forks. The Indians retreated before him and he followed, impelled by the eagerness of his men. In a ravine on the creek now called Bird's Creek, a terrific battle occurred. Captain Bird and four of his men were slain but the Indians finally were beaten off, although there were 1,000 warriors fighting 50 or 60 white men.

After the battle, reinforcements passed over the battleground and followed the Indian trail but the Indians escaped.

BIRDSDALE NOW A PART OF TEMPLE

Long before Temple was established, there were some scattered families in the surrounding area.

Alex Hodge is said to have settled nearby in 1851, and it was he who suggested the name of Birdsdales for the community when it was decided to apply for a post office in 1871.

The settlement then nestled around the little store of A. J. Flake, a log building about 14 feet square located in a grove of liveoaks where 51st and Ave. H now intersect in Temple. John F. Dixon is said to have been the builder.

Among early residents were the families of Vinson, John Futch, Rev. Anderson Clark, William Pace, T. M. Sloan, Jonathan Moore, A. A. Black, John T. Freeman, Marshall Crawford, Charles Crawford, J. A. Clark, White, Tom Havens, Mrs. Dicy Cox, A. J. Flake, Major Allen, Charlie Wright, William Hubert, John Dennis, A. M. Keller, Frank Nixon, Warren Puett, John F. Dickson, Bunk Hodge, Milt Hodge, Alex Hodge, Jim Hodge, White Miller, W. D. Matthews, the Lauderdales and Aunt Millie Goode, a Negro.

A schoolhouse was built in the summer of 1871 and became the site of community gatherings.

About 1872 Flake moved his store and post office to a point where Ave. C and 39th St. cross.

Here he sold general merchandise and operated pens where trail drivers could road-brand their cattle. Many are the tales which must have been swapped by the hard-riding drivers to whom the danger of a stampede was ever present, especially during electric storms when lightning sometimes killed cattle.

After Flake closed his store, the post office was moved to the home of Sam Gibson, with Jim Gibson serving as postmaster for some time.

John T. Freeman and Charley Crawford owned the first gin, which was run by horsepower and was located at about where Calhoun Ave. and 35th St. now meet.

About 1876 the Farmers' Grange bought land on the north side of Adams at 37th St. for a hall and cooperative store. First manager was a Mr. Mumford, then W. C. Matthews and L. G. Sims.

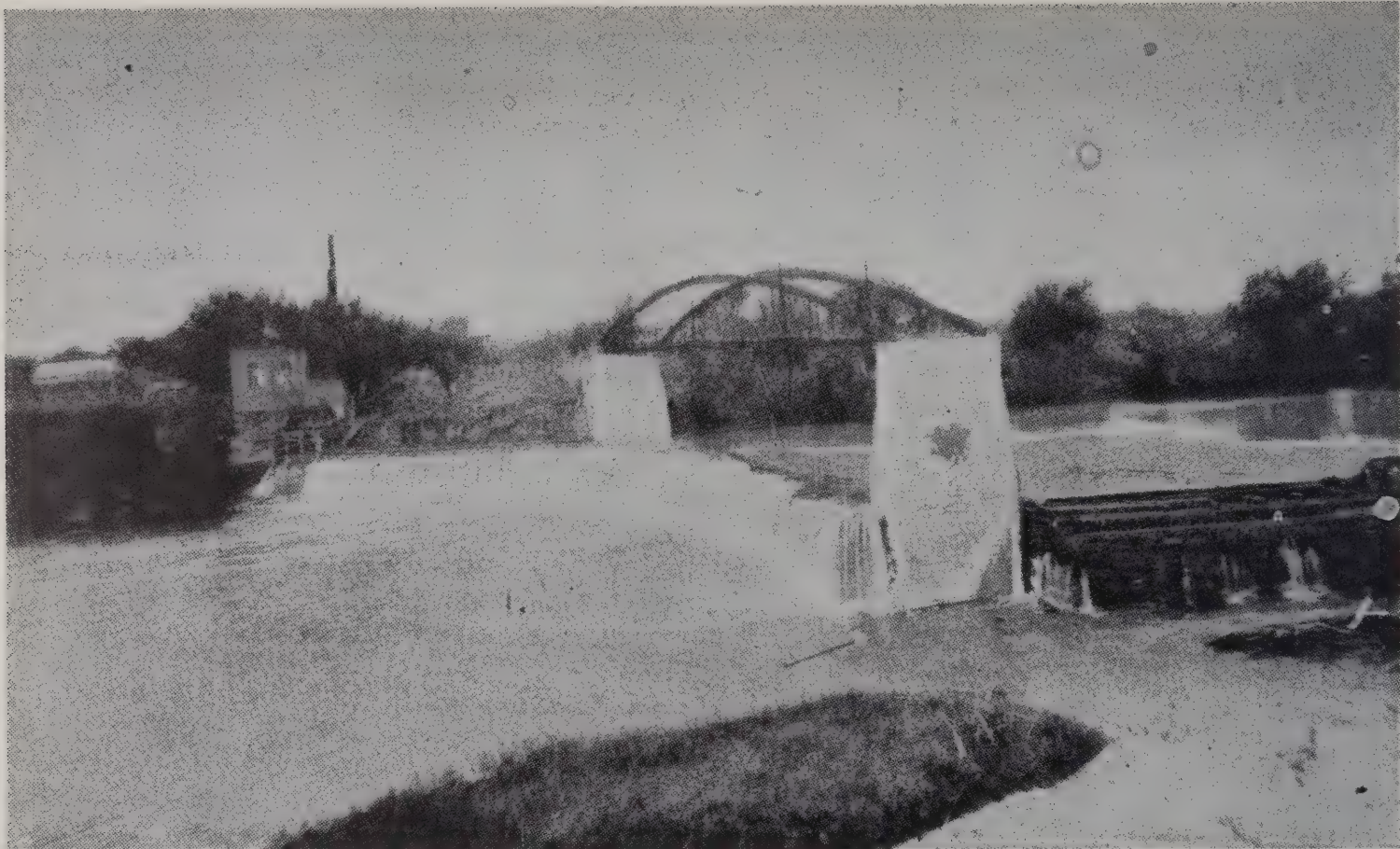
The Baptists built a spacious church with Rev. M. V. Smith as its pastor.

Walter Dickson and Tom Gibson operated a blacksmith shop.

At the time of the establishment of Temple, Birdsdales was a thriving little village that picked up and moved to Temple only to have its former townsite become a part of Temple in later years.



WATER MILL AT SALADO



ONCE A TOLL BRIDGE—Here are the ruins of an old toll bridge across the Leon River between Belton and Waco. Little building at the left

is a water-driven generating plant for Belton. The old postcard from which this is taken describes the area as a favorite fishing spot.

A DIME FOR A CROSSING

It once cost a good dime and required a ferry boat ride to span the Leon River in the early days of Bell County.

The ferry crossing was at the crossing of the old military road, just north of the present Leon River bridge on the Belton-Temple highway.

Dred R. Hill had the license to operate a ferry, procured for \$5 a year from the first regular session of the Bell County commissioners court. It was granted Nov. 18, 1850.

Fare was regulated by state law for a normal crossing, when the river was no more than half full. When it was flooding or virtually full, Hill was free to make any deal he could. A 10-cent charge was made for a single man and beast (the term beast was not exactly defined). A single man and horse could ride for 15 cents.

A one-horse wagon was charged 30 cents, a two-horse wagon was levied 50 cents and a road wagon and team had to pay a dollar to cross the river. A rate of three cents a head was paid on livestock such as hogs or sheep. Drove of horses and mules brought a five-cent per head charge.

In 1875 the Lampasas Bridge Company was licensed by the county commissioners court to build and

maintain a toll bridge over the Lampasas River near the Shaw Crossing about four miles south of Belton. The old rock toll house for the bridge which spanned the Lampasas River may still be seen.

James P. Reed was president of the company and John G. Batte was secretary. Among stockholders were John Q. Allen, H. C. Denny, J. W. Embree, W. K. Hamblin, J. Z. Miller and O. T. Tyler, all business or professional men of Belton or Salado.

The bridge, built in 1876, failed to return dividends under the toll system and finally was taken over by the county to be operated as a free bridge.

Prior to this, another toll bridge was built in the county. A franchise was granted William A. Miller, Elisha Embree, Silas Baggett and John T. Flint, on June 3, 1871 for the structure. The group was incorporated as the Belton Bridge Company to construct a toll bridge across the Leon River on the Belton-Waco road. The bridge opened for business in 1872 and was the first wagon bridge built in the county.

The county eventually took over the bridge. Its rock pillars may still be seen from Highway 81 below the dam on the Leon.

THAT INFERNAL MACHINE!

Living in the early days of Bell County was not an easy task by any means and often it took courage and ingenuity which today are almost unheard of.

The following recollection by "Uncle" Swan Bingham appeared in a frayed newspaper clipping written by Ruth Garrison Francis and recounts the constant vigil kept by settlers against the Indians.

This incident occurred while the narrator was serving as a regular lookout for Indian activity. The story runs like this:

"It was late in May two or three years after the Civil War and conditions were just getting back to normal. The men folks had just about cleared off the weeds and undergrowth that had sprung up in their fields while they were gone and since they had learned what it meant to be cut off from a grain supply from the states, they had planted a pretty good lot of small grain.

"The season had been good, too, and things looked

right bright for us farmers. There was one thing that was a drawback to us, though. All the grain we raised had to be threshed by trampling it out or beating it out by hand and that took a lot of time and damaged the grain, too. There had been some talk of someone inventing a machine to thresh grain, but no one around Belton had seen one and those who had heard of it didn't think much of the idea, so we just went on making our plans to do our threshing by hand.

"We hadn't had any trouble with the Indians for a long time, but they were still giving occasional trouble in the mountains in Burnet County and we didn't dare not keep up a watch for them.

My father and I were taking turns about at the lookout's post then and we had our station on the highest point of one of the mountains up at Sparta—you can still see the place if you go up there. We would climb a high tree and look all around and we could see everything for miles to the west. There





hadn't been any trouble from the east in a long time and that part of the country had stopped looking for trouble from that direction. It was from the heavy woods and deep canyons along the Leon and the Cowhouse that we expected the redskins to sneak up on us.

"Well, I had been on night post, and I was eating my breakfast peaceful like, when I thought I heard a horse running lickety-split somewhere down in the valley. I couldn't see him from where I was so I shinnied up my tree double quick, and sure enough way down the valley I saw a horse running as fast as he could. I couldn't make out whether it was an Indian or a white man riding the horse at first, but in a little while I saw that it was a white man so I climbed down and waited for him.

"Pretty soon I saw that it was Pa and he didn't waste any breath when he got to me. He just leaned down and hollered, 'For God's sake get your horse, Swan, and get to town. The Indians are attacking from the east.'

"I didn't need any second invitation and in five minutes we were both tearing off those five or six miles between us and Belton.

"All along the way we passed folks hurrying into Belton, which wasn't much more than a good sized settlement as towns go in these days. We didn't have any fort or stockade, but we did have a new jail built out of hardwood logs put up in double walls with iron plates between them and while it wasn't used much to keep folks in, the settlement had sort of got the habit of using it to keep folks out. They said that the only prisoner who ever spent the whole night there did it because he was afraid if he got out he would meet somebody that he'd been stealing horses from and they would invite him to a sort of sudden necktie party.

"But the jail was a good strong place even at that. It sat right on the banks of Nolan Creek where what is known as the old stone jail sets today . . . and people were going to the jail that morning for protection and they were carrying just whatever they

happened to pick up in their hurry to get off. When we rode up the sheriff was standing by the door checking folks in as they came, until finally every family in the whole community was accounted for. Then we got all our means of defense ready and settled down to wait for the attack.

"Nine o'clock came, then 10, then 11, but still everything was quiet. People began to get restless. It was crowded in the jail. Some were for going back home. It was a mighty fine day for working in the field to be wasted in jail. Finally somebody asked, 'Who saw those redskins anyway?'

"'I did,' said a woman who had a little place out on the east edge of Belton at that time. 'Just about sunrise I stepped out of my back door to put my milk things out to sun and right over east of here I saw the sun flashin' on gun barrels and red blankets of what must have been a hundred Indians.'

"That sort of dampened the enthusiasm of the ones who had been so anxious to get back to the fields. If somebody had seen the Indians they must be somewhere around. Even a pretty good sized bunch of Indians knew ways of disappearing right before your eyes, then showing up at most uncomfortable places. We got to thinking about the damage an ambush could do to us and five of us, includ-



OENAVILLE POST OFFICE—This old building served for 75 years, was torn down in 1957. Pictured in 1929 is Mrs. D. W. Beer.



THRESHING NEAR KILLEEN ABOUT 1894—Lots of men, mules and muscle were required to get in the crops when this photograph was made. The

arrow points to Ed Walling, brother of Mrs. R. T. Polk and Mrs. W. R. Barber of Killeen and the father of W. E. Walling of Plainview.

ing Pa and me, decided to do a little scouting around.

"We followed the creek bank for a while, then we sidled from house to house, crawled along behind rail fences and bushes and wiggled through tall grass. Every now and then we'd stop and listen, but no redskins. Another thing was queer; stock was usually restless when Indians were about, but the livestock that people had left behind didn't seem bothered a bit. They'd look at us sort of surprised-like, then they'd go on about their business as if the ways of human beings were beyond their understanding.

"It was getting along toward dinner time and the sun was getting hot and we were getting tired of playing hide-and-seek and never catching anybody, so just as we topped the rise this side of the Leon east of town we decided to risk walking on two legs for a little. Pa got up first, slow and cautious, with a tree between him and the 'enemy.' He peered down below him, then, 'Well, I'll be,' he said and kept on staring.

"We all got up and looked and there just as peaceful as you please was a man sitting under some pecan trees eating his snack like he was at home and over under another tree were two horses munching some oats. But that wasn't all. There in the middle of the road was the queerest contraption I had ever laid my eyes on. It was a machine on

wheels with a wooden body all painted bright red and with lots of shiny doodads all over it.

"Well, sir, there were our Indians right there before our eyes. We went down and talked to the fellow and he was right glad to see us after we told him what we had the guns for, but he said that he hadn't seen hide nor hair of any Indians and he had come all the way from Milam County since the day before. He said that the machine was made to thresh oats and wheat by horsepower instead of by hand and he'd heard that Bell County had a good crop and that he had come up to try his luck getting some threshing to do.

"We told him he'd come to the right place, then we waited around till he hooked up his outfit, then we went to town with him to keep the folks from shooting up the contraption before they found out what it was.

"I reckon it was a good thing folks were so interested in that thresher when we got to town with it, too, because there ain't any telling how they might have felt just to have us go back and tell them that all the rumpus was stirred up because a woman had seen the sun hitting that threshing machine when it came over the hills close to where Temple is now. Yes, sir. When people get excited they want something to show for it."



PROGRESS IN THRESHING—These pictures were made in 1905 on the J. Q. Thompson farm on the outskirts of Troy. It was just some 35 years after the first threshing machine had scared the daylights out of everybody as recalled by Uncle Swan Bigham on the preceding pages,

but what a difference in farming methods! In the top picture are 768 sacks or 4,224 bushels. Below, Engineer Earl Thompson stands on his iron horse of the prairie, the machine that made such fast production possible, but whose sparks could start ruinous fires.





FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL AT SEATON—This building was erected in 1884 and the picture is thought to have been taken between 1885 and 1890. Mrs. Klofanda was the teacher.

AT OLD DARR'S CREEK SCHOOL

Mrs. Caroline Mackensen Romberg, who with her family settled in the area just west of the present Holland in 1860, was an observer of her times and in an autobiography recalled days at school in the Darrs Creek community. Mrs. Romberg was born in 1856 and died in 1950. Some of her children still live on the home farm in the community.

"The school house of the Darrs Creek community was located about half a mile west of the present Holland, on the north side of the Darrs Creek where a spring furnished good water. The one-room box house had no windows (window-lights) but wooden shutters which could be opened to let in the light. The room could be heated by a fireplace. However, the top part of the chimney had fallen down and so no large fires could be built. Consequently, on real cold days school was not kept. The benches were split logs smoothed a bit on top. These primitive benches were placed around the walls of the room so that the pupils could rest their backs against the wall.

"There was no blackboard, no teacher's seat. However, there was a recital bench and a small desk in one corner of the room where one could do some writing—if one felt so inclined. I remember that I sat there sometimes—mainly to show off my writing ability. I had received good training in an Austin County school.

"No trees surrounded the school house so the cattle would collect on the shady side of the building. During a rainy spell they would mire up the place considerably.

"School would get started somewhat in this manner: A person desiring to teach would arrive in the community and express his wishes to some prominent citizen, perhaps Captain Dallas, who would then send someone around to the neighbors and if enough pupils could be rounded up for a term of a few months, school would be opened. Pupils included grown young men and ladies as well as children. When finally so many dropped out of school it was not a paying proposition any more,

the teacher would move on to another community. One time our teacher and his family lived in a tent during their sojourn.

"Books were scarce, so the course of study was very simple. Every pupil brought the books he had and learned out of that supply. Families that had more school books than they needed were accommodating and lent to others less fortunate. Some children had only a speller—the famous 'blue-backed' speller. The McGuffey Readers also were important textbooks. If a child had finished the first reader and a second was not to be had he would start on the third reader next. A slate was used for writing and arithmetic—if one had a slate. I should mention that one boy had a grammar and studied it.

"The methods of teaching were simple. First, the beginner learned the alphabet, then he learned to spell. Finally, he somehow miraculously learned to read. There were some who in later years could still rattle off by memory the entire first edition of words in the 'blue-backed' speller because so much

time and effort had been spent on the difficult beginning. In the back of the speller was a list of long words . . . Everyone knew where that list was and it was everybody's ambition to spell out that list some day to perfection and with great speed—with the entire school as an admiring audience."

"The chief diversion of the noonday recess was wading in the creek, hunting grapes and nuts and making chewing gum from the inner bark of the gum-elastic tree. One peeled off the outer rough bark to procure the inner bark. This was then chewed vigorously, though it was very bitter and then the entire mass was balled together and rubbed and pulled in running water, usually by one of the larger girls, so that the particles of wood washed out. It was a fine art to chew the bark just to the right consistency for if it was chewed too much the small chips would not wash out, and if it was not chewed enough too much of the valuable gum was lost. Finally, the finished delicacy was divided among the group. The stuff was stretchy and was excellent material for blowing bubbles. It sometimes hap-



WHERE'S THAT SNAKE?

pened that the teacher got tired of the whole mess and the disturbance created thereby and forbade further chewing.

"It also happened that a good friend would ask 'Let me chew your gum awhile.' Ideas about sanitation were very vague.

"Most of the pupils rode to school on horseback. Since the teacher had no watch or clock, punctuality

was unimportant. It was customary to bring a jar or bottle of milk for lunch. The first comers set their jars in the spring, later on others were stuck in the mud around the spring to keep the milk cool. All this could be turned into an awful mess if stray pigs came along while the pupils were in the school-room."



OLD ROCK QUARRY—This quarry was located two or three miles west of Belton and supplied some of the stone for Mary Hardin-Baylor College buildings.

THE LONG TRAIL

An interesting chain of events covering 100 years was told by 91-year-old J. J. Bishop in the Belton Journal of Sept. 19, 1957. Most of it is reproduced here in the author's own words:

"In 1857, my father, Sam W. Bishop, then a young man residing near where the town of Moody now stands, was employed by a Mr. Stubblefield to help assemble a herd of longhorned native steers to be driven to the Kansas City market. Nine hundred head were gathered on the bald prairie around Moody, ranging in age from five to eight years. Mr. Stubblefield appointed my father foreman of the herd.

"It was early in the month of April, 1857, that the herd began to move slowly to the north, depending entirely on the range for grass to sustain the

cattle and the drivers' horses.

The major part of the way to Kansas City had never been marked by trail drivers. This was a new enterprise initiated nine years before Chisholm blazed the famous trail that bears his name.

"So Mr. Stubblefield's move was an adventurous and dangerous one. They encountered the hazard of swimming their cattle across swollen rivers — no bridges then. There was the danger of stampedes where losses could be great. There was also the danger of Indians, as the herd must pass through their territory. They met these hazards with a minimum of loss, and finally arrived at Kansas City.

Mr. Stubblefield found the cattle market very low and unsatisfactory. He refused to sell at prices offered, so he decided to drive on to Chicago, hoping



COUNTY LANDMARK—This huge hunk of rock near where the old town of Aiken once stood has long been known as "Jobe's Coffin."

to find a better market.

"The newspapers of Kansas City had advertised the coming of this herd into the city on a certain day. So the country folks for miles around were all there. The herd paraded down (the) main street, strung out a mile long. It presented the most exciting show that ever came to town. Those tall lanky steers with horns three feet from tip to tip were amazing to behold, but no more so than the strange paraphernalia of the cowboys. Each had a lariat made of rawhide strings plaited together. Bridle reins and headstalls were also made of rawhide strings. Saddle girths were made of hair obtained from horses' and cows' tails twisted together like a rope. Each had a brace of six-shooters on a belt buckled around his waist or thrown across the saddle in front of him. Spurs with jingling bells were buckled to their boot heels.

"The show put on by Mr. Stubblefield 100 years ago, as 900 longhorns paraded down main street in Kansas City, is being told today to the descendants of those who saw it.

"As the herd continued its journey to Chicago, they traveled on the west side of the Mississippi River where the grass was plentiful and settlers were few. When the herd arrived at Davenport, Iowa, a deal was made with the operator of a ferry boat to haul the cattle across the river.

"My father rode onto the boat with 40 head of longhorns. When the boat was about mid-stream a big steer became excited. He milled around on the boat for a time, then leaped over the baluster into the river.

"He swam out to the bank where the boat was to anchor. When the big steer got on land he looked around and discovered a lady hanging clothes on the line. With head and tail in air, he made a Sul-



KUYKENDALL PLACE—This old-fashioned house stands near old Aiken. Note the outside stairs leading to the loft.

livan rush for her. The lady darted into the house and watched the steer tear down her clothes line and trample her garments into the dirt.

"When the boat landed, the steer rushed to the herd as they came off the boat.

"When father rode off the boat, he proceeded to the house to pay the lady for the damage the steer had done.

"The lady met him with a shotgun in hands, mad and raving like a maniac. Father thought she was going to shoot him. He jerked his six-shooter from its holster, pointed it at her and demanded, "Drop that gun or I'll kill you." She opened her hands and the gun fell to the ground. Father then remarked, 'Now, lady, calm down. I came here to pay you for the damage the steer has done. Figure out your damage and I will pay you.' A peaceful settlement was made and that ended the excitement.

"The herd was driven straight east from Rock Island to Chicago and sold for \$40 per head.

"They started from Texas with 900 head, lost 40 head in a stampede before they got out of Texas, gave Indians three for permission to cross their territory, sold 12 in Kansas City for expense money. That left 845 head, which brought \$33,800.00. The hands were all paid and discharged.

"This herd of longhorns was probably the first



and only herd ever driven all the way from Texas to Chicago. They were five months on the trail, and never slept in a house or ate from a table during that time.

"While father was prowling around over the city of Chicago viewing its wonders, he discovered a buggy on display. A buggy was a stranger in Texas at that time. He bought the buggy with harness for \$160.00 and rode back to Texas in grand style . . .

"While father was returning home, traveling alone in his new buggy, an 18-year-old boy thumbed him to a stop one day in the state of Missouri. The boy asked permission to ride. Father let him in and as they journeyed, father learned that the boy was running away from home and that his goal was Texas. Father told the boy he lived in Texas and that it was a pretty rough and tough place. He advised the boy to change his mind and return to his father's home. The boy turned a deaf ear to the advice and said he was determined to make his way to Texas. Then father agreed to let him ride

all the way with him.

"Father turned the boy loose in Belton. His name was Scott Goodsell. Scott remained in Belton, married there and made a good citizen. The couple had one child, a daughter."

Mr. Bishop continues with the information that Scot Goodsell's daughter married Sam Street who later became chief of detectives on the San Antonio police force where he was killed in line of duty. The man convicted of the crime was pardoned in 1957 after serving 30 years—rounding out the 100-year chain of events begun when a hitchhiker was picked up in Missouri.

That hitchhiker, Scott Goodsell, was one of the several Belton men who became separated from their wives by a women's religious cult begun in Belton shortly after the Civil War. He joined several other Belton men in Central America on a banana plantation.

W. W. Bishop and Sam Street, the aforementioned police officer, were classmates at Salado College.

A PIONEER'S REMINISCENCES

The following is excerpted from the writings of J. M. Roberts, who was born in Mississippi in 1835, came to Bell County in 1848:

". . . We stopped on the Lampasas River at a spring afterwards known as the Joel Blair Spring. While there, a heavy snow fell and my brother, N. F. Roberts, 18 years of age, killed a bear.

"After two or three weeks we broke camp again and went down on Salado Creek . . . I will give the names of the old settlers of 1848. I was only a boy of 13, but as I had a good memory I think I can give them correctly.

"Robert Childers and family, Gouldsby (sic) Childers, O. T. Tyler, who afterwards married Carolina Childers, J. M. Cross, James Blair, Moses Griffin, William Griffin, William Stevens, John Fulcher, John Anderson, Joe Reveli, Nat Shields, Mike Reed, Bill Reed, Mrs. Carter, Jeff Reed, Reese Norell, E. N. Goode, Sam Wheat, Joe Wheat Esq., John Marshall, C. B. Roberts (my father), John Danley, Jim Shaw, Joel D. Blair."

Here Mr. Roberts describes what he says was the first school in the county, taught in 1849, first by E. N. Goode with the five month session being finished by a teacher named Edrington. "The school house was near where Glasson Smith afterwards put up a cotton gin. The house was built by a man by the name of Kurkendall (sic)." Among the stu-

dents were Joe, Avery, Jim, Dave, Jane, Carolina, Neal and Bell Griffin. Also William, Joel and John Blair; William, Saluda and Marion Cross; William, David, John and Bent Roberts; De Morrell and Green Morrell and Eva, their sister, 23 in all.

"In September of 1849 I was taken sick while at the mill of Cross and Childers and stayed all night . . . The next morning, my fever having left me, I was able to go home where I was afterwards confined to my bed for five months with typhoid fever and white swelling . . .

"In 1851 John Williams was moving from good old Arkansas and while he camped on Elm Creek a party of Indians came and stole his horses. However, the soldiers at Fort Gates captured the horses . . ."

Mr. Roberts said that about 60 Indians camped near the future site of Salado in 1851, started stealing things, frightened the women and children and then moved on when asked to do so. In 1853 Indians stole horses on Nolan Creek from the Coxes and Suttons. In 1854 they stole horses in Wilkerson's Valley and Bob White, Joe Toundson, John Potter and Dave and Ike Williams gave chase, killing one Indian and recovering the horses.

"In February, 1859, the Indians came in and killed young Pierce and Riggs and his wife on the south side of Cow House, near where old Uncle Jessie Scroggins once lived."



PIONEER HOME—This is the Thomas H. Lancaster home on Little Elm Creek just east of the present Temple city limits as it looked about 1870. It was a pretentious story and one half house for its time and place,

much of the building being hidden in this picture. Part of the house was constructed of logs in the early 1850s. It was added to and weatherboarded as lumber could be obtained—a few pieces at a time.

EARLY DAYS ON ELM CREEK

One of the first families to settle in the area just east of Temple was that of Thomas Hamilton Lancaster, his wife Caledonia P. (Coleman) Lancaster and their three small sons, Felix Napoleon, William Enos and James Hamilton.

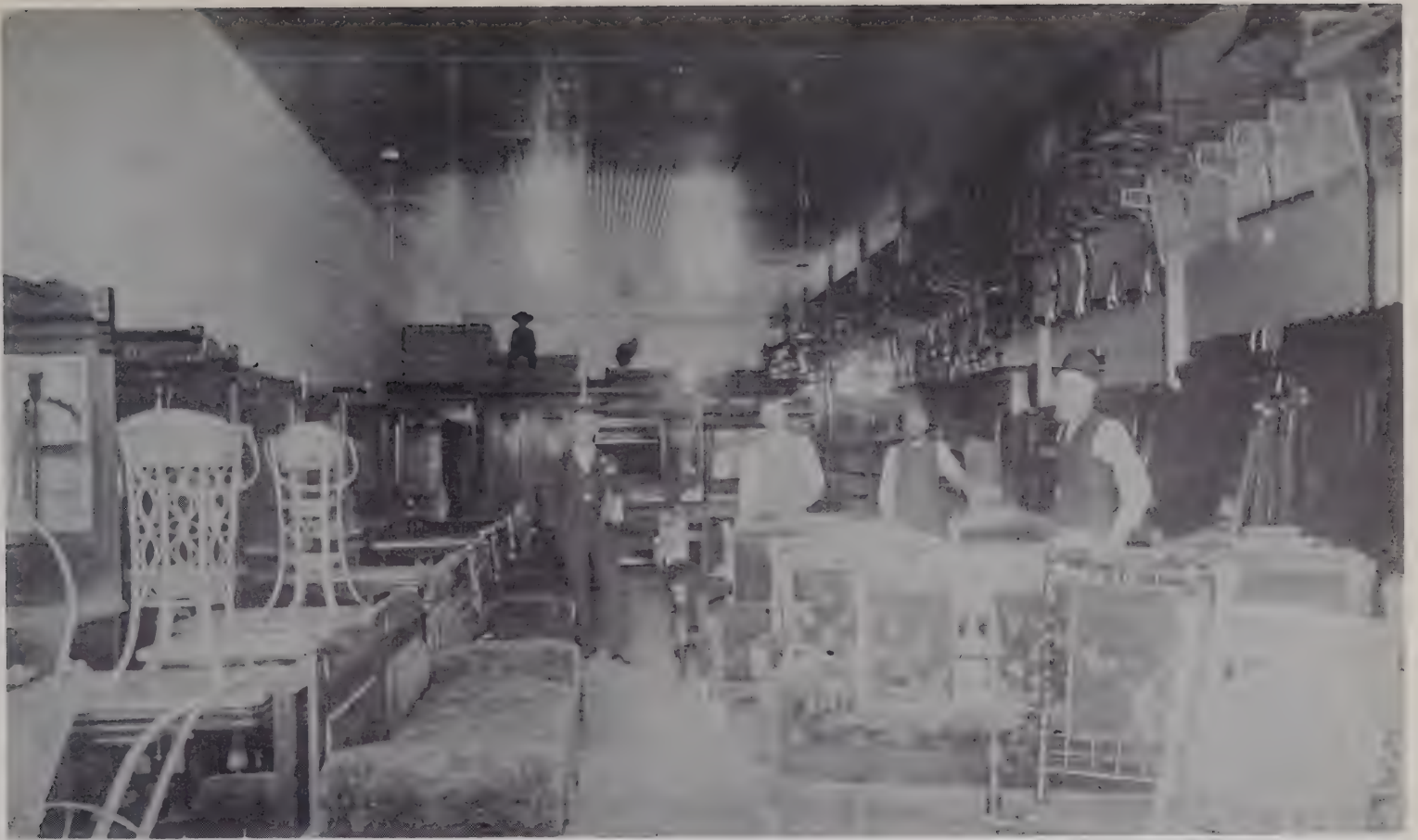
It was a long trip from Perry County, Tennessee, in 1851. First came a boat ride down the Mississippi and through the Gulf to Galveston where the father nearly lost his savings and possibly his life to robbers.

The Lancasters were lucky. They had relatives in Grimes County whom they reached by boating up the Brazos River. Here they remained for a few weeks while investigating the proper lands to buy for a permanent home.

Two tracts, totaling 570 acres in the Milam District of newly created Bell County were purchased. These adjoining tracts were located on Little Elm Creek near the site chosen about 30 years later for the town of Temple, the boundaries extending to the present city limits.

This part of the county was then called "The Prairie" and the Lancasters had hopes of using the rich black soil for cotton, which had been profitable to them in Tennessee. However, it was to be some years before cotton farming would be practical in Bell County.

While their lands were being "located" and surveyed, the Lancasters remained in a camp-home on the banks of Little Elm Creek just south of the later



J. W. KYLE AND SON, FURNITURE



IT TOOK LOTS OF WOOD FOR PRE-GAS STOVES

site of Little Flock Church. The chinaberry trees which now line the creek bank are said to have been planted by the Lancasters at that time from seed brought from Tennessee.

Supplies were to be had only by making long overland trips by horseback or ox-wagon to Austin, Round Rock or even more distant points. These trips sometimes left the mother and children alone for weeks with the scream of a night-prowling panther adding to the loneliness.

The nearest neighbor was the Levi Moore family who lived farther up the creek where a small mill was located. It was here the Lancasters took refuge one stormy night when Little Elm overflowed the campsite. All the money to be used to pay for land and every other necessity until the family could get started had been securely buried. The next day it was discovered that the spot had been washed out and the money was gone. Luckily it was gold and did not go far. It was all recovered from the creek bed when the flow had returned to normal. There was not a great deal of money, but it was all they had and prospects for getting more in that

wild country were mighty slim.

Finally a site was chosen and a small log house was constructed. The Bell County Ranch Book at Belton shows the "3 P" Lancaster brand registered Feb. 9, 1852.

After a short time title to the land on which the little log cabin was situated began to be challenged.

At that time there were certain land sharks who were adept at juggling surveys and using other methods of beating settlers out of money, land or both. Sometimes a parcel of land would be sold with a title cloud which was cleverly concealed.

Whatever the case in this instance, the Lancasters built a new house farther up the creek on their other tract, the boundaries of which were not then disputed. Here they remained for many years, rearing six of their eight children. Left behind at the old place were the graves of two boys who had died in the fall of 1852, aged two weeks and four years.

Land litigation was to continue for the Lancasters for 25 years, long after the father's death. The widow finally received a favorable decision from



ABOUT 1908

the U. S. Supreme Court.

By 1860, if not earlier, Little Elm settlers supported a schoolteacher. From old tuition receipts from the '60s come the names of these teachers: Miss Mary Nelson, G. W. McDonald (at Bethel), Thomas M. Cartmell, W. H. Harrison and Celon B. Lockheart.

On Aug. 7, 1863, at Willow Springs, Thomas Lancaster, then 50 years old, volunteered and was mustered in as a 3rd sergeant in the Texas State Troops which were soon a part of the Confederate Army.

He furnished much of his own equipment, valued as follows: horse, \$400; horse equipment, \$50; arms, \$50.

Left to look after the family until he would be in the army was 16-year-old Felix Lancaster. Neither father nor son saw much fighting, but the father contracted cholera and was invalided home, never to completely recover. He died in 1867 and was buried in the Lancaster Cemetery, which he had set aside for family and community use. He

has numerous descendants in Bell County and elsewhere.—Compiled by Mrs. J. T. Ramage.



PENDLETON CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 1906



NOLANVILLE CAMP MEETING—Every fall since 1888 folks from all over the state have headed to Nolanville for the famous Church of Christ meeting with its ten days of preaching and visiting. These old-timers,

pictured in 1951, had attended all 66 meetings, with the exception of the Sprots, who missed one. From left to right: Mrs. Joe Sprott, Mrs. Gilbert Jackson, Mrs. Lon Sutton, Mrs. Tobe Hughes, Joe Sprott.



RESTORED PIONEER CABIN—This little house had stood for more than 100 years in the Sparta area when engineers for the Belton lake began plans which would result in the flooding of the land upon which it stood. Mrs. Madie Smith, in charge of the Belton bureau of the Temple Daily Telegram, could not stand by and see the cabin end up on a

scrap pile, so she had it moved to her lot. It was restored, with a few modern additions such as electricity, into a comfortable den. Mrs. Smith is happy that her "museum piece" is not just something to look at, for it seems fitting that a house which has seen so much living should continue to bring comfort.

OLD DAYS IN TEMPLE

Mrs. Annie E. Ayers, 86, has many memories of Bell County in the early days locked in her mind and her recollections bring out details which could be found nowhere else.

She is the daughter of Sampson O. Ayers and the granddaughter of Virgil Ayers who owned the land from which Temple eventually arose. Mrs. Ayers says her grandfather received 11 leagues of land for his services for the Republic of Texas.

In a special interview for this volume Mrs. Ayers, who now lives in Austin, had these observations:

"He chose the 11 leagues and they extended from the Santa Fe Hospital to Cameron. The post office, the Methodist Church—all up and down the Katy I've signed every deed and quit-claim deed to those places. You will find my name to more

quit-claim deeds than any other woman in the country."

Mrs. Ayers, who was born in New Orleans, said she came to Texas in 1884 with her father.

When they arrived there was no hotel in Temple.

"We stayed out in the country. My father had given his sister, Mrs. David C. Moore, 400 acres of land right out here by the cemetery and we stayed out there until we could get into a house.

"We had been used to a great big two-story house and it came mighty hard to us to come down to a little two or three-room shack," she said.

"Our furniture came from New Orleans and we had to wait for that. We didn't have a refrigerator. They didn't even have refrigerators in New Orleans at that time. We used a box. We didn't have any

lights."

The first circus which came to town also made an impression on her.

"I know the name of it, Floto Circus, and that was the first circus that came to town," she recalled. "Our circus grounds were over on the east side of town. The circus usually stayed where the city park is now.

"An old Indian fighter with the circus stayed at our house when the circus was in town. He was awfully old and had long white hair.

"I liked to watch the elephants unload. Jumbo has been here . . . and always led the parade. The elephants pulled the cars out to the circus grounds and then they formed a parade through the town. That was their advertising."

Mrs. Ayers said that the old Chautauqua was housed in a tent.

"We sold tickets for two or three years, I have

forgotten which, and we had a pretty good program. They had the tent out down there on the square. It would stay about a week and they had a show every night."

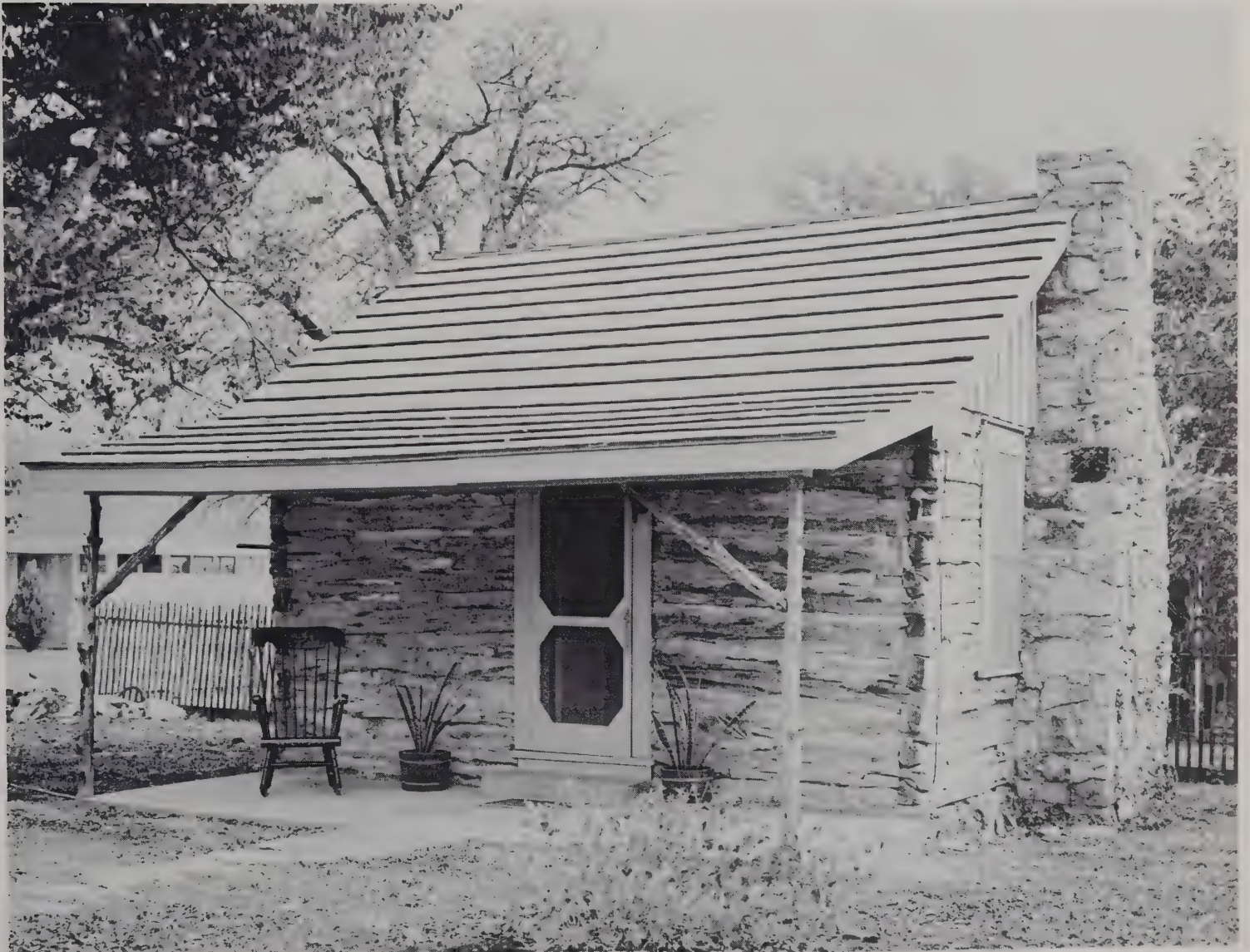
Mrs. Ayers said that when she was about 15, wall telephones began to appear. "They were the kind that hung on the wall and you had to turn and turn (the crank).

"I have seen the telephone come in and electric lights come in."

Shooting scrapes were somewhat of a common occurrence in the early days in Temple.

"They were mostly at the saloons. They (people) would go into these saloons and get drunk, then it would turn into a riot. They had some big, big shootings.

"I wasn't big enough then to see those things and they scared me half to death. We'd be downtown and someone would say 'Look out, look out' and



EARLY OCCUPANTS—The cabin in Mrs. Madie Smith's backyard is remembered to be standing at Sparta in the late 60s when the father of Mrs. Irene Denman Kiser bought the farm. It was home for many years to "Uncle Jack" and "Auntie" Smith who moved there in the 70s. Uncle Jack, who was more than 100 years old at the time of his death in the

early 1900s, often talked of his adventurous life. He left his home in Holland (Europe, not Texas) at the age of 10 and put in 25 years at sea before settling in the little cabin. Old timers remember that the place was surrounded by flowers and that Auntie Smith kept several sleek, well-fed cats as pets.



FIRST CHARLES COX STORE



everyone would run for a (light) pole, get behind one to keep from getting shot."

Mrs. Ayers recalled her first school experience quite well.

"My father thought he was going to send me to a public school. Then they had quite a good public school. So, he took me to start me to school.

"Well, my mother made my stockings—she knit them—and they were gorgeous, made of corticello thread. My shoes were made by our own shoemaker in New Orleans. They buttoned way up my legs.

"The pupils at school would always be looking down at my feet. I said I wasn't going to a school where folks are going to look at me all the time and I didn't go back to school.

"Baylor College was coming on at that time and they established it in Belton. I wouldn't go back to school so the following year my father went over to Dr. Woodley and said he would pay any price if they would let me enter.

"I was not in scholastic age you know, so Miss Annie, Miss Bagby and Dr. Looper they took me in and I had classes—not in college but I had classes separate.

"The next year I had some college subjects."

The appellation "Tanglefoot" picked up by Temple came from the use, or overuse, of liquor, Mrs. Ayers said.

"There were lots of saloons and brawls."

Like all early-day residents, she remembers vividly the streets in Temple.

"We didn't have paved streets and we had very few streets laid off. My father went to work to build a house right away and we built a very nice house on the south side. I've seen the buggies and horses bog down until it took hours to lead the horses out and they would have to wait until spring to dig out the buggy.

"We had some old board sidewalks, yes, coming along about the second year. Then we had a little old tank down near the Methodist Church which was our water supply."



D 3260. Temple Candy factory, Temple, Texas



P. L. DOWNS LEADS A PARADE



THEY HELPED SECURE LIBRARY—After Mrs. W. S. Banks corresponded with Andrew Carnegie and he donated \$15,000 toward the building of a library at Temple, dances, stag parties and other affairs were held to raise more money. On the bottom row are: Stewart Shaw, unknown, Rhoner, George Peck, unknown, George Haughton, P. L. Downs, Newt Jarrell, unknown and A. J. Jarrell. On the back row are Claude Seybold (?), Jeff Bassett, Ernest Fletcher, Curtis Mitchell, F. F. Downs, Dr. Murphy, Ernest Maedgen, E. F. Lanham Sr., and A. B. Crouch. The library building stood on the square where the parking lot now is until destroyed by fire.



OLD CARNEGIE LIBRARY, TEMPLE





OLD BELTON BUSINESS—The pioneer banking firm of Zac Miller and W. E. Hall was photographed in 1899. The artillery is a three-inch Con-

federate cannon. On the left by the gun is Harley Swink. To his right are Clinton Swink and Barton Jones.



ROBISON STORE, TROY, 1922



PERSONALIZED BUILDING—Of interest to several generations has been the building built by Otto Burwitz between Main and First on Ave. B

in 1883. Along the front of the ornamental ironwork were the letters O-T-T-O. Initials O-B are on the ends.



Temple Creamery, Stegall Hotel, First Christian Church, Temple, Texas.



TWO VIEWS OF THE STEGALL HOTEL





ROGERS, 1958

FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS

Joe Brooker believed in private enterprise and intended to do something about it. He might have whistled as he carefully loaded a wagon on the family farm near the village of Temple one day in 1882.

First on the wagon was a load of boards. Next came three barrels of whiskey, then five pounds of cheese and five boxes of crackers. A few tools and items of clothing completed the load.

After checking to see that everything was in order, he climbed to the board seat and started the team to plodding southeastwardly.

The next day Joe stopped at a likely looking spot beside the shining new rails of the Santa Fe.

By nightfall he had built a small building with the planks he carried. A sign reading "Joe Brooker's Store" hung over the door and inside the building were the three barrels of whiskey, each with a tin cup on its top. Spread out on a board nearby were the cheese and crackers. He was in business!

Thus occurred the birth of the village of Rogers.

Joe Brooker prospered. Enlarging his stock and his activities, he grew with the settlement that followed, became a prominent merchant and founded the town's first bank.





W. W. REED AT REED HOME PLACE ABOUT 1900

ROGERS THEN AND NOW

There are other versions of the founding of the town of Rogers besides the Joe Brooker story and there are several versions about the comings and doings of Brooker himself.

E. D. King, who came to Rogers at the age of three in 1886, remembers the Brooker store and recalls an incident or legend which illustrates the old forthright way of doing business.

It seems there were four side-saddles on inventory at the Brooker store, but one morning one turned up missing. None of the clerks could remember having sold it.

Brooker thought things over. "Let's see, there's the Hilliard family. A young lady out there. We'll charge it to them and see what happens." Hilliard came in to pay his bill, but disclaimed the side-saddle. "Well, now, So-and-So has a gal who must be about side-saddle age. I'll just charge it to him." No sale this time either.

Customers just didn't hop down to the store any

old time in those days. A month or two might elapse between marketing trips. As time dragged on, Brooker charged first one customer and then the other with the saddle, but all allowed as how they had never seen it. The store manager likely never questioned for a minute the honesty of any of the customers who denied buying the saddle. A man's word of honor was more respected in those days of less complicated business methods—at least a man with whom one did business regularly. And a side-saddle would be an unusual enough purchase not to slip a customer's mind.

Joe Brooker was just about to run out of families equipped with young ladies when one day he thought sure he had the right man billed. "But," the customer insisted, "I never bought a side-saddle in my life!" Brooker knew this customer had some daughters. He is said to have replied, in effect, "Well, all right! But you oughta bought one!"

The teller of this little yarn does not vouch for its

authenticity. He just remembers hearing several versions of it for many years and also that Joe Brooker left Rogers with \$80,000 in cash, went to Fort Worth and became a millionaire.

It is not hard to see how an enterprising merchant could have amassed \$80,000 in Rogers, for Mr. King remembers when the town had six cotton gins, three general stores, three banks, four or five grocery stores and five saloons. In 1918 there was more cotton shipped from Rogers than from any city between Purcell and Galveston—18,761 bales.

With the shifting of local emphasis to livestock and the advent of motor transport Rogers has declined businesswise. But a person with energy can still keep busy. For instance, Mr. King has been a land operator since he was 15, and has been in the sign business for 51 years, now making monthly changes to billboards for several national accounts. He's been in politics, too, including four terms as

mayor, and has had and still has an active interest in all community matters.

"He's gone to Cameron to post a sign," Mrs. King told a recent visitor. "We just can't get him to slow down." An immense quilting frame was in the room, filled with the evidence of many hours' work. And the way Mrs. King, the former Lulu Hause of Milam County, moved about the spotless house with its large rooms indicated that she, too, had no intention of "slowing down."

Neither are going to worry about "retiring" until the time comes. "That's for old' folks," quipped Mr. King, who came to Rogers in 1886 with his family and has lived in the city limits continually since then. Sharing this long tenure as a Rogers resident is his sister, Mrs. Ora Stitt. Their father, James D. King, was Rogers' first mayor and a successful land operator.



THE SANTA FE STORY



The story of the building of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe represents one of the most colorful periods in the history of Texas. No railroad had a more obscure beginning and the financial difficulties and hardships which were encountered by the pioneer citizens who made the road possible almost overwhelmed the stockholders before the line was started.

The GC&SF owes its existence to a quarrel between the cities of Houston and Galveston which began in the early 60's when there was but one railroad serving the two points.

In those days, mild yellow fever epidemics occurred each summer on the coast. Whenever it was rumored that the fever had re-appeared Houston business interests would promptly get a quarantine declared on all passenger and freight traffic from Galveston to Houston.

This forced the city into a state of virtual isolation and prevented Galveston wholesalers from selling their goods upstate, leaving practically all of the East Texas for Houston business. Considerable resentment was aroused because of this, particularly during the cotton season. On various occasions there was agitation in favor of going up to the county line with shotguns and re-opening the way for the port's commerce. But instead of loading their guns, the more conservative business men of Galveston decided it would be better to build their own railroad to go around Houston into the interior, and thus the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Railway was born.

Although chartered on May 23, 1873, it was not until 1875 that President Henry Rosenberg turned the first shovel of dirt in Galveston at a spot where the present shops of the Santa Fe now stand. The railroad was financed almost entirely by Galveston interests. Galveston business men were the first officials.

General Braxton Bragg, who commanded one of the Confederate army forces during the Civil War, was made chief engineer. Under his direction, grading was finally started on May 18, 1875, but in September of the same year, General Bragg dropped dead while crossing a street in Galveston. Other delays occurred due to financial difficulties and it was not until 1877 that the line finally reached Arcola, a distance of 43 miles from Galveston.

On April 15, 1879, the road went into bankruptcy and was sold under a deed of trust for \$250,000, which had been given to secure a loan made by the original stockholders. After this, there was a re-organization and operations were not resumed until 1880.

The officers of the new organization, which bore the same name, were John Sealy, president; R. S. Willis, vice president; G. C. Allen, secretary, and



PULLMAN ENTERTAINMENT IN EARLY DAYS

George Ball, treasurer.

Work was resumed early in 1880; by August 1st, 63 miles were completed from Richmond to Brenham and within the next year 100 miles more to Belton. Belton had high hopes of being the division headquarters of the Santa Fe and the county even voted to exempt it from county taxes for 10 years, but the Santa Fe did not accept the offer. Instead, they laid out the town of Temple (named for their chief construction engineer, B. M. Temple) and made this the division point.

Fort Worth was reached late in 1881. The line north of Temple was and still is called the Northern Branch. Lampasas on the main line was reached May 15, 1882, making the trackage 361.66 miles.

By this time Houston had assumed such importance that the Santa Fe found it to their interest to get access to it and effected an arrangement on August 1, 1880 to use I&GN trackage to Houston from Arcola, 19 miles distant. Then in May, 1883, a branch was built from Alvin to Houston.

In 1886, the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, which had started out from Kansas with the ultimate purpose of spanning the great mid-west to the California coast and to the Gulf, were making tentative eyes at each other.

On March 25, 1886, George Sealy, then president of the GC&SF, called together the stockholders, all of whom lived in Galveston. In a remarkable expression of faith and trust in Mr. Sealy, the stockholders authorized him to effect a sale of their road to the Atchison.

In 1886, the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe set 100

engineers, 2,000 teams and 5,000 men to work on the monumental task of building 300 miles of railroad within one year from Fort Worth, Texas to Purcell, Indian Territory. This was one of the stipulations in the sale of the GC&SF to the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe.

Walter Justin Sherman, chief engineer of the GC&SF at that time, had charge of the construction. There had been no surveys made or right of way secured, and there were only about 300 working days to complete the job.

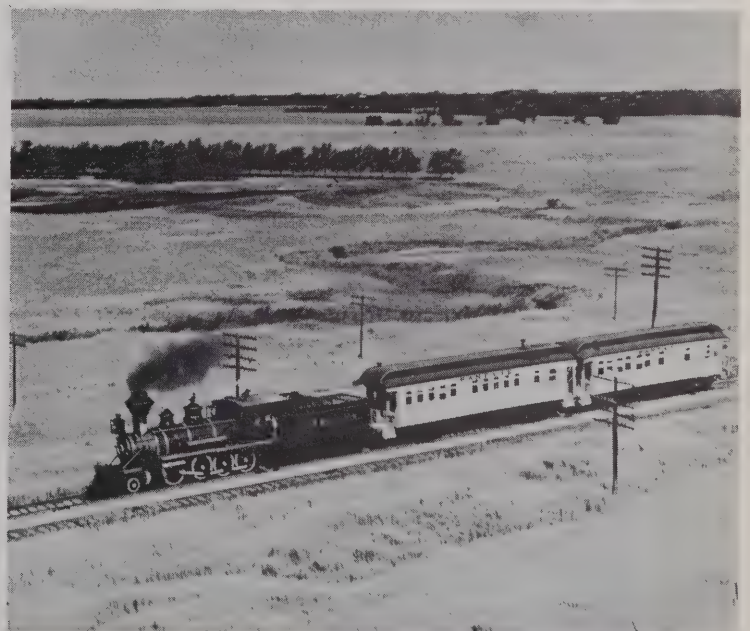
Mr. Sherman's account said "... it required about 100 working days to organize and get under way. We gave the track laying crews one mile of material at 7 a.m. and another mile at 1 p.m. and permitted them to lay off when the mile was laid.

"There was much rivalry between our men and those of the Atchison coming down with the track from Arkansas City to meet us. But we beat them to the junction point by four hours and there was great rejoicing among our faithful workmen."

Shortly after this the sale was consummated and the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe, born in Galveston, became an integral part of the Santa Fe system.

Carrying the products of the field and earth both to port-side ships for movement overseas and to the interior, the Santa Fe in Texas has grown from a fledgling enterprise to an important adjunct to the state's transportation network. In its 81 years it has carried thousands of tons of sulphur and grains, bales of cotton to the piers. Santa Fe cars have carried millions of feet of lumber from the mills which were started in East Texas around 1900 and poured it into the nation's commerce.

Both the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway and the Santa Fe Railway System have had the good fortune of having been directed by some of the most noted railway executives in the nation.



CHUGGING ACROSS THE PRAIRIE

TIMBER ON THE HILL

A crest on the Fort Hood reservation, once known as Bishop Mountain, had an important role in the movement of the Santa Fe across Central Texas.

J. J. Bishop of Brownsville, son of S. W. Bishop who settled on the mountain in 1866, has brought out the details of the mountain in a booklet "The Rise and Fall of Sparta."

On the mountain was a grove of tall, virgin cedar trees nearly three miles long and about a mile and a half wide. From that grove came a large amount of the heavy timber used in construction by the railroad.

In 1877 Andy Wolf, who owned a section of land in the center of the cedar brake died and C. W. (Walsh) Walton became estate administrator. It was his idea to divide the tract into five-acre blocks for public sale to farmers for cedar posts.

Before the plan was completed the railroad officials saw the timber and worked out a deal with Walton to use the material in construction. The rail-

road crews worked cutting timber on the mountain in the spring and summer of 1882.

S. W. Bishop was foreman of a crew and drew \$1.50 per day while the author of the booklet snaked out the logs by wagon at 10 cents per log.

S. B. Bishop, the author's brother, hauled the logs to Belton for 10 cents per log. Axmen received 10 cents for each tree felled.

The crew of 15 to 20 axmen camped near the Bishop home where water was available and purchased many supplies from the Bishops.

By latter summer, 1882 the crew had supplied the railroad's timber needs from the cedar grove and the land was sold. Shortly after the sale, the remaining trees were destroyed by fire.

The Bishop place was purchased in 1946 by Mrs. A. L. Flanders and the old log house was moved when the family left to make room for expansion of Fort Hood.



The entire Santa Fe system, of which the GC&SF is a vital Grand Division, serves the nation from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico and to the Pacific Ocean over more than 13,000 miles of track.

It represents a vast army of employees. It operates the greatest fleet of freight and passenger diesel and other diesel equipment in the world.

Today the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe extends from Galveston to Purcell, Oklahoma; from Temple

to Sweetwater as well as from Somerville to Silsbee, High Island to Longview via Beaumont, from Dallas to Paris and from Fort Worth to Menard.

Over the 2,147 miles of Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe main track and 800 miles of yard track and sidings, travels an important segment of the man, machinery, land resources and products that combine to make Texas a great commercial, agricultural and industrial giant.



GULF, COLORADO & SANTA FE HOSE COMPANY NO. 110, IN 1891

THE SANTA FE SHOPS

The Santa Fe shops at Temple for the repair and maintenance of locomotives and other equipment have been in constant use by the railway since the day the first train arrived in 1881.

In fact, records in the firm's offices indicate that the first shops were built at Temple even before passenger trains were operating regularly to the point. The records show B. B. Temple, then chief engineer for the Santa Fe, and R. B. Harris, construction engineer, located and built these facilities in the exact spot where they now stand.

The shops were possibly the first of any consequence built outside Galveston, where the line originated. At one time, the office of superintendent of locomotive power, highest ranking position in the railroad's mechanical department, also was located in Temple.

None of the original structures built by Temple

and Harris remain. Part of the facilities was destroyed by fire in 1892 and others were replaced.

When the division shops were located in Temple in 1881, Temple was made the terminal for all locomotive power and equipment used in this section. It still serves this purpose although its territory has been considerably increased and now includes all the line south to Bellville, north to Cleburne and west to Sweetwater, known as the Southern Division of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway.

Names of the first shop employees are unknown. However, an old payroll record from December 1892 reveals the name of Joe Billingham as master mechanic, although it is doubtful if he was the first to have held the position at Temple.

At present there are about 120 employees engaged in the mechanical department at Temple.

FARMING AND RANCHING

THE GENERAL PICTURE

BY DON D. DECKER
Bell County Agent

Bell County is divided geographically by the Blackland Prairie to the east and the Grand Prairie to the west. The total land area of the county is 693,120 acres with 407,120 acres in cropland and 286,000 acres in range and pasture. The annual rainfall is 34.6 inches.

The total population of Bell County is 73,824 which includes 35,066 rural people and 38,758 urban people. Ethnic groups are Czech and German which dominate the eastern half of the county which is the farming section. The western half is populated by "Old Line Americans" where livestock production and

ranching are the main enterprises. The average age of the farmers is about 55 years. There are 2,881 farms, and the operators include 69.8 per cent owners and 30.2 per cent tenants.

The county is an agricultural county in spite of recent expansion of industry and Fort Hood. The farm income is about \$14,000,000 which is about one-sixth of the county total.

The estimated annual income from crops is \$9,000,000 involving the following acreage: Cotton—74,000, grain sorghum—65,000, corn—55,000, small grains—70,000, and pecans—27,000 trees.





FIRST TRACTOR IN BELL COUNTY



ON THE OLD SANTA FE-FRED HARVEY DAIRY FARM



BILL WILEY AND HIS CHICKS

The livestock industry provides an annual income of \$4,000,000. Livestock numbers include: Beef cattle—38,000, dairy cattle—5,500, swine—9,600, sheep—28,000, and goats—24,000.

An estimated annual income of \$1,000,000 from poultry includes 169,000 layers, 123,000 broilers, and 65,000 turkeys.

A large number of farm families seek outside employment which is indicated by 802 farmers with

incomes exceeding the value of agriculture products sold. In addition, 1,225 of the farmers are working off the farm part time.

An allocation of 40,000 acre feet of water for irrigation has been made from the Belton Lake. Irrigation is becoming very popular along the Leon, Lampasas, and Little Rivers. There are 26 irrigated farms in the county with a total of 2,130 acres under irrigation. The surface has been only scratched with regards to irrigation in Bell County.



OSCAR GROSSMAN FARM

The average size farm is increasing and the number of farms are decreasing. There are 2,881 farms averaging 188 acres compared to 4,004 farms with 152 acres in 1940.

Mechanization accounts for much of the agricultural progress. There are 2,223 farm tractors, 335 corn pickers, 349 combines, and 650 cotton strippers. This compares with the following equipment in 1950: 2,156 tractors, 95 corn pickers, 290 combines, and no cotton strippers.

The progressive agriculture can also be measured by the conservation practices. For example, conservation practices in 1957 included: 504,250 linear feet of terraces, 109 farm ponds, 47 new wells, 4,141 acres of brush controlled, and 19,220 acres of cover crops.

There are 13 organized rural communities in Bell County which hold conservation meetings at least four times per year. Nine of the communities hold regular monthly meetings, and three of the communities are participating in the rural community

and pasture improvement program.

Marketing facilities for agricultural products are favorable. Eight approved warehouses for storage of grain are located in Temple, Holland, Bartlett, and Belton, with a total capacity of more than 2,000,000 bushels. One USDA egg grading station is located in Bell County. One broiler processing plant is located at Holland, and the nearest turkey processing plant is 30 miles away at Marlin and Lampasas. There are nine produce houses in the county.

One of the top auction barns (livestock) in the state is at Temple. Four packing plants are in the county plus three locker plants. Bell County is 130 miles from Fort Worth-Dallas markets, 135 miles from San Antonio markets, and 200 miles from Houston markets. Bell County dairymen are selling their milk to Mid-Tex Producers Association at Austin.

New enterprises being considered by some farmers include production of sesame, popcorn, and some vegetables. There is a definite trend toward increasing the production of livestock and poultry.



BLACKLAND EXPERIMENT STATION

The Blackland Experiment Station—Substation No. 5—was authorized in 1909 by the state legislature and established at Temple for the primary purpose of conducting research on varied soils and crops problems, with special attention to control of cotton root rot.

The station was moved in 1927 to its present site of 542 acres on the southeast edge of Temple in the south central part of the Blackland Prairie of Texas. Soil and water research was begun in 1931 in co-operation with the U. S. Soil Conservation Service. Hybrid corn breeding became an important function here in 1927 and beef cattle grazing and feeding research was intensified in 1937.

Increasing attention has been given to evaluating weather in relation to crop performance and conservation. Mechanization for all major crops, especially cotton, has been a major research activity on the Blackland Station. Field scale application of improved farming practices has provided the final testing of detailed research results and has served to demonstrate new information and methods to farmers and to representatives of other groups or agencies.

The Blackland Prairie is a rather clearly defined agricultural area of deep, fertile, heavy textured soils. It includes about 10,000,000 acres extending southward from the Red River bottomland on the north through Central Texas and joining the Rio Grande Plain in the San Antonio area. It is bounded on the east by brown, sandy forested Coastal Plain soils and on the west by shallow clay prairie soils over hard limestone. The distance from north to south is slightly more than 300 miles. An additional 2,000,000 acres of Blackland lies on the southeast, separated by forested Coastal Plain soils.

Elevation on this station varies from 582 to 660 feet with slopes ranging from zero to 6 per cent. The average annual rainfall for 44 years is 33.7 inches. The average frost-free season is 249 days, extending from March 26 to November 21. The average temperature is 67.2 degrees F., with the minimum daily average 55.3 degrees F., and the maximum average is 79.1 degrees F. The most dependable rainfall occurs from April 15 through May 30 with the minimum rainfall corresponding with maximum temperatures in July and August. Thus, severe summer drouths are expected.

Variability in spring rainfall and summer drouth have a great influence on crops grown and on cropping practices. Temperature, humidity and wind often determine rainfall effectiveness. These factors also exert many direct effects on crops.

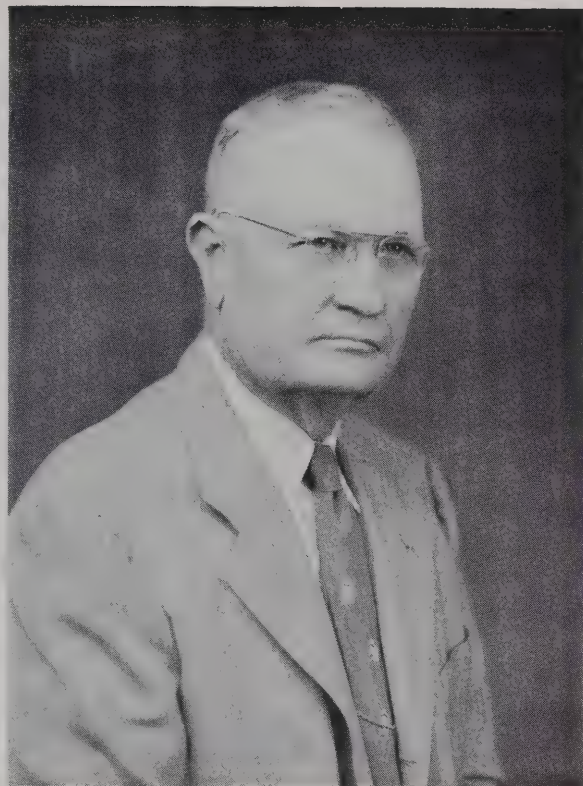
Most of the research at the station is conducted in co-operation with the Soil and Water Conservation Division of the Agricultural Research Service, USDA

and with other substations and departments of the Texas A&M College System.

Results are made available immediately to county agricultural agents of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, personnel of the SCS, farmers and allied groups through field days and the press, radio and television.



HEIDENHEIMER MAN A CONSERVATION PIONEER



V. C. MARSHALL

More than a century ago "Square John" Marshall was farming on the Little River near Heidenheimer. Today that same farm is the home of his grandson—and it produces more per acre and is in better shape generally than it ever was.

Not only this one farm, but farms throughout Texas are now better largely because of the leadership of this grandson, Vernie C. Marshall, known as the father of Texas Soil Conservation Districts.

No one-sided fellow, Mr. Marshall has also been a ginner, banker, merchant and educator. Back in 1926 while attending international conferences on education in Washington and New York as the Governor's representative, he heard a Chinese educator describe the plight of that poor country where centuries of misuse had laid croplands barren and where thousands of persons were hungry. Then he thought of his neighbors in Bell County, of how he had seen some of them abandon part of their land which was no longer productive and how the streams that were clear when he was a boy were now muddy with irreplaceable topsoil. That did it. Conservation had its champion.

Texas A. and M. had been directing limited terracing operations since about 1910, but there was no statewide, effective all-inclusive program of soil and water conservation.

Prior to 1937 many conservation bills went before the legislature, but only one was passed and it was

vetoed because it was considered undemocratic and unworkable from a tax angle and other reasons.

In 1937 and 1938 Mr. Marshall called together more than 100 leading farmers and ranchers throughout Texas. Ways and means were discussed at length which resulted in a bill being passed in 1939 creating soil conservation districts as voluntary political subdivisions. Carrying democracy to a local level, a district, through its board of supervisors composed of five local men, coordinates the conservation needs of the district's farmers and ranchers with the various agricultural agencies, state and federal, which have the needed know-how and machines.

Like a district, the state board is composed of five members, one from each of the five main agricultural sections of the state. All these officials are elected by the farmers themselves.



RUNOFF CONTROL—Bermuda grass waterway of the farm of A. C. Akridge near Troy. Akridge was chosen as the "outstanding conservation farmer" in the Central Texas district for 1955. Photographs such as this are a part of the contribution of an important member of the team, the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, whose state headquarters are in Temple. Temple is also the home office of the Association of Texas Soil Conservation Supervisors who publish the monthly magazine, *SOIL AND WATER*, edited by Howard Boswell.



EROSION WAS UNCHECKED HERE



CHECKING EROSION—W. D. Seals and Charles Polk at the site of a terrace maintenance demonstration of the Polk farm about 1947.



BRUSH CONTROL—Using sticks as pointers, County Agent Don D. Decker and J. S. Fox map campaign on the Fox Ranch at Salado—Louis James Photo

Mr. Marshall and his associates were strongly opposed to any paternally operated program with experts telling the farmer what to do. They knew that the only chance for success lay in letting the farmer solve his own problems and that he could do so if given a good chance.

By Jan. 1, 1955, there were 171 soil conservation districts in Texas, representing 96 per cent of the state's land area.

V. C. Marshall was a member of the first state Soil Conservation Board and soon became its executive director, a position he held until July 1, 1955. It has been estimated that he has traveled about one million miles, studying conditions, speaking and acting as a consultant.

He also found time to serve 16 years on the Bell County school board and to rear eight sons and send them through Texas A. and M., his own alma mater. He's been a lifelong champion of rural education and working with his neighbors, helped establish one of the first independent school districts out in the country (made by consolidating four small schools.) That was the Academy School, located on original Marshall family land.

His belief in the value of correct use extends not only to soil and water resources, but to organizing time to get the most from it. As the eight Marshall boys grew up they were given tasks and responsibilities around the gins and farm commensurate with their ages. All now hold responsible positions.

In 1955 Mr. Marshall retired as executive director

of the Texas State Soil Conservation Board so as to find time to do some of the many things he had been planning. He remained for some time as a field representative. He was nearing the age of 70, but retirement did not mean loafing for him.

In 1956 he won the \$5,000 Hoblitzelle Award "in recognition of the Texan who has made the most outstanding contribution to the advancement of rural life in the state during the previous three years."

Mr. Marshall does not like to receive any personal glory—he's just glad that he was able to be a part of the great effort which has been made by thousands toward conservation. He's the first to admit that the job has just begun, but "we now have the necessary tools."

He predicts that sea water will some day be used for all purposes and that the area from Beaumont to Brownsville could feed the whole nation. With its central location between the two Americas he believes that area may some day outrank New York and the Northeast industrially.

The summer of 1958 found V. C. Marshall still hopping around the country early and late, his immediate concern being the development of the watersheds on such creeks as Elm, Nolan, Pond, Darrs and Donohue. He maintains an office in the Temple National Bank, for which he is agricultural representative, but it's usually easier to find him somewhere out in the country talking to a farmer or rancher.



THRESHING WITH STEAM POWER, 1906—Miss Annie Romberg furnishes some interesting information about threshing at the time the above picture was made on the farm of J. D. Romberg near Holland. A crew was made up of 25 or 30 men from the neighborhood—the engineer, woodgatherers for the engine, water hauler for same, separator operators, sack fillers, sack sewers, wagon loaders and drivers. Meantime in the kitchen the womenfolk would have to prepare meals, meals and more meals. The engine's whistle was used for

signalling. A long blast between four and five in the morning notified the neighborhood that steam was up and time was wastin'. Three short blasts might tell the waterman miles away to hurry. There were signals for the women to begin setting the table, a signal that the separator needed more grain and on down the line to the quitting blast. There was always an air of urgency, for there were other farms to work. Cooperation was a must. Threshing season lasted from three weeks to two months, depending on the weather.

COUNTY AGENTS

Bell County's first county agent was John B. McCord, who was agent for Bell and Falls Counties from 1909 to 1911 with E. L. Evans as the local agent.

Listed chronologically, other county agents have been: Tom Youngblood, R. W. Persons, a Mr. Martin, Merwin Chauncey, S. F. Clark, J. M. Parks, V. W. Woodman, George P. McCarthy, Edmund Singleton, W. D. Seals (longest tenure of service, 1939-54) and Don Decker, the present agent.

The Boys' Corn Club was organized in 1918. This was the beginning of what was later to become known as 4-H Clubs.

The Bell County Jersey Cattle Club was started in 1929 with 210 members.

County agent work continues to teach farmers through result demonstrations. The present Extension program includes a "seven step cotton program, five point grain program, community improvement, farm and home development, 4-H Clubs, and demonstrations on swine, beef cattle, sheep, goats, fruits, gardens, dairy management, range and pasture, and poultry. Individual questions and problems in these and in any other agricultural field are worked out separately.

Listed below are persons who have served as home demonstration agents, assistant home demonstration agents and chairmen of the home demonstration council. Exact dates of service are not known, but the list is thought to be accurate chronologically. The story of home demonstration work itself can best be told with pictures.

HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENTS

1915—Miss Kate Lee Hendley
Miss Zera Girdner
Miss Bess Mason
Miss Sadie Lee Oliver, Asst.
Miss Tempa Davis
Miss Maurine Hearn

Miss Lorena Dry
Miss Tira Stewart
Miss Tressie Youngblood
Miss Vivian Ezelle Johnson
Miss Ruby Butts
Mrs. Lucy Lee Durham

ASSISTANT HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENTS

Mrs. Selma Harmon
Miss Helen Rose
Mrs. Shirley Skidmore
Miss Mary Roper

Miss Anita Runge
Miss Charley Jordan
Mrs. Mary Houdek
Miss Frances Hembree

HOME DEMONSTRATION COUNCIL CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Joe Wallace Curry
Mrs. G. E. Shipp
Mrs. O. E. McGregor
Mrs. Vermell Landers
Mrs. J. A. Montgomery
Mrs. F. L. Davis
Mrs. John R. Bigham
Mrs. Homer Daniel
Mrs. W. C. Slawson
Mrs. T. J. Ludwick

Mrs. Earl Clark
Mrs. W. A. Messer
Mrs. Wyatt Robinson
Mrs. Hubbard Hamilton
Mrs. G. W. Ferguson
Mrs. Lester Pryor
Mrs. Ed Mikeska
Mrs. Mary Russell
Mrs. T. B. Morris



PAST COUNCIL CHAIRMEN—The home demonstration council was organized in 1931 as an advisory committee for the home demonstration club program in the county. Pictured are Mmes. John Bigham, Homer Daniel, T. J. Ludwick, Earl Clark, W. A. Messer, Joe Curry (the first chairman), O. E. McGregor, Vermell Landers and Frank Davis.



ELECTRICITY STUDIED—4-H Club members study good wiring practices for the farm, electrical safety, minor electrical repairs and the making of such electrical aids as brooders and lamps. Perhaps the lamp making is the most fun. There is a yearly contest for the best lamps in two classes, study and decorative, in which imagination runs wild with horseshoes, kerosene lamps, stirrups, vases, wagon wheel hubs and bits of sticks, stones, shells, metal, paint, paper, a lot of youthful ingenuity and enthusiasm. Shown above are Rosamond Hoelscher, Lyndal Wolverton and Charley Jordan, then an assistant county home demonstration agent.



"KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS"—And practically everyone in the world is a neighbor since the advancement of communication and transportation. These 4-H Club members are decked out to represent some of the United Nations, the flag of which was made by home demonstration women.



YES THEY CAN—Girls can TOO learn to fix such things as iron cords. No relation, but both handy, are Rosamond and Josephine Hoelscher.



PRETTY GIRL, DELICIOUS FOOD—Charlotte Matthews of the Nolanville 4-H Club looks happy at the 1950 Cen-Tex Fair.



SPRUCING UP—Painting the mail box and applying reflective tape to the name are, standing, Mrs. A. F. Smith, Mrs. Ford Copeland and Mrs. Melvin Barnett. Mrs. J. F. Crawford is seated and the little girl who is superintending the work is Miss Kay Copeland.



A PRIZE WINNER—Sara Tomlin receives a pair of pinking shears from Hammond Moore. She won first prize in the 4-H dress review of 1948.



FLAGMAKERS—Mrs. Frank Chambers, Mrs. S. S. Dumas and Mrs. Alpha Vanderveer also find time for some interesting conversation.



KITCHEN ORCHESTRA—This group from the Moffatt home demonstration clubs has played at fairs, the veterans' hospital and many other places. Left to right are Mmes. Bob Chaffin, Lennie Patton, Paul McLaughlin, Joe Harmon, T. J. Ludwick, Herbert Brown, Ruben Beerwinkle and Frank Smith. It's easy to see how most of the instruments work, but wonder how Mrs. Patton makes music with that eggbeater?



SAY WHEN—Twila Lueck stirs and Tommie Joe Smith pours as they give a dairy foods demonstration to a group of 4-H Club members.



WHITEHALL 4-H AT WORK

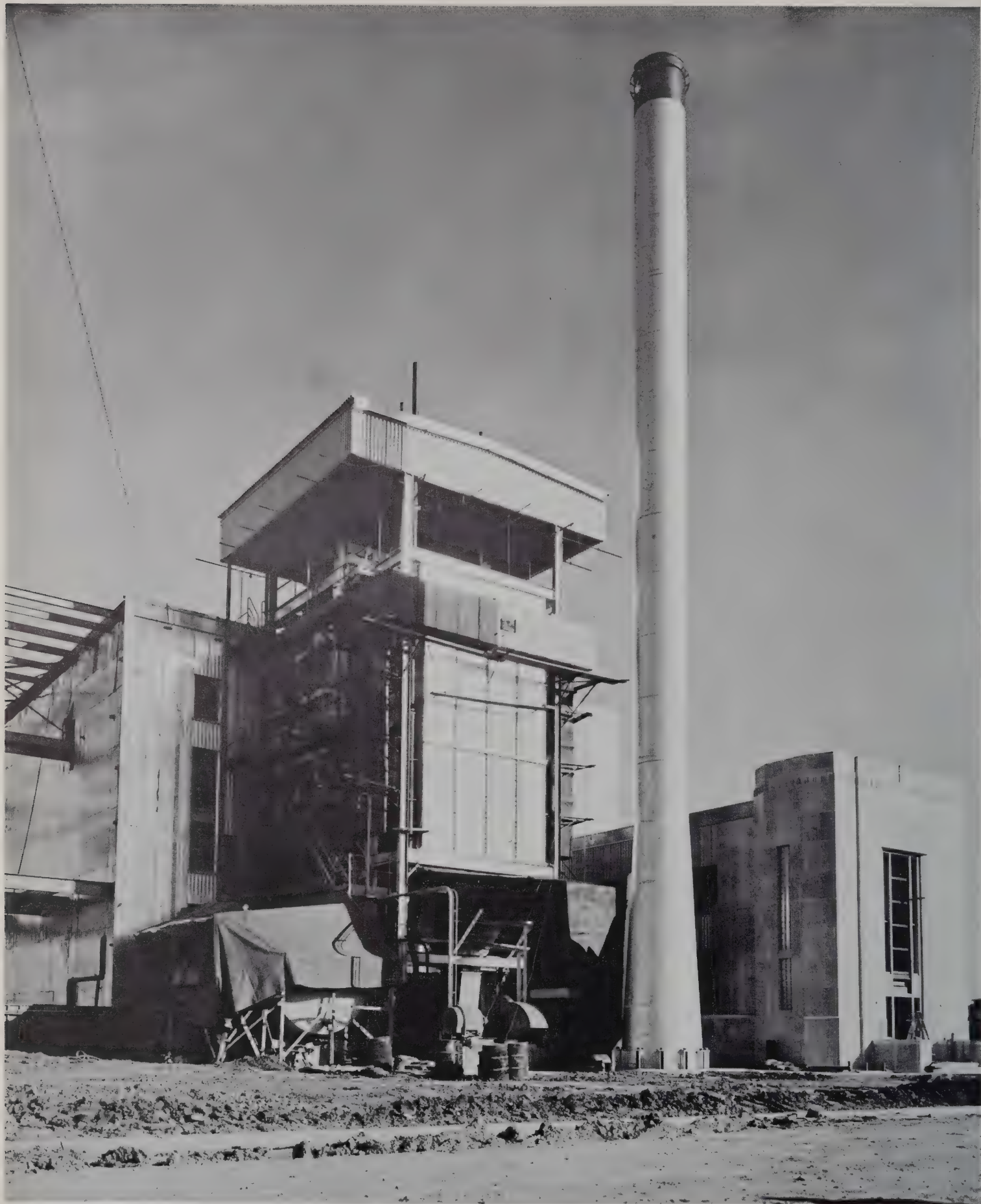


PARADES ARE FUN—On this float are two sets of twins, Ronnie and Donnie Parker from the Dogridge club and Annette and Jeannette Kovar from the East Bell County group. The float illustrates "steps to better living through 4-H." (HEAD, HEART, HEALTH, HANDS.)



THERE'S TIME FOR BOTH WORK AND PLAY





BOB POAGE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PLANT NEAR BELTON

The Temple Daily Times.

Published Daily

TEMPLE, TEXAS, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1907

Subscription Rates

WE ARE DAILY RECEIVING OUR FALL AND WINTER STOCK,

And will soon show the largest line of Clothing and Gent's Furnishing Goods ever in Bell county. Our stock will comprise all the latest styles in men and boys' clothing, etc. We have strictly one price and guarantee all goods as represented. Our prices will always be the lowest. Call and see us.

M. SCHRAM, The Popular Clothier, Temple.
DO YOU KNOW

That One Car of Stoves, and one car of Hardware arrived at
RIGGINS & QUARLES,

The 12th street hardware merchants of Temple. We have the cheapest and best line of stoves in Bell County and the largest stock. Ask our Editor for Quarles' note. And more car load of stoves to arrive soon.

IF

you have not seen the new line of clothing and gent's furnishing goods, call and see us.

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"North and South Texas Line."

Central and Southwest Texas to all Points North East and West.

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Churches





PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TEMPLE

After the first lots were sold in Temple on June 29, 1881, a group of Presbyterian families who had been attending the church in Belton, set about organizing a Presbyterian Church in Temple.

A commission composed of Rev. R. M. Tuttle, Rev. C. W. Peyton, and Elder A. A. Black of the Belton church met in October, 1881 on a lot donated by the Santa Fe Railroad. A vacant store building was obtained in which Rev. Tuttle preached the first sermon.

Members who presented certificates of dismissal from the Belton church and became charter members of the Temple church included A. A. Black, Mrs. Margaret Black, Mrs. Mary M. Sloan, H. C. Black, H. K. Black, Miss Annie M. Black, Miss Florence Black, J. L. Gray, Miss Jennie S. Gray, E. S. Crawford, Mrs. Josephine Shipp Crawford, Miss Magie (Maggie?) Crawford, Miss Bettie Crawford, Miss Jennie Crawford, N. W. McMillan, Mrs. D. E. McMillan, Mrs. Lucinda McMillan, Miss Maria M. McMillan, Elias B. McMillan, W. R. Winfrey, Mrs. Martha Winfrey, Sam G. Wilder and Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Jones.

A frame building measuring 24 by 36 feet was built at what is now the southwest corner of First St. and Barton Ave. First services were held here Dec. 18, 1881 and Rev. C. W. Peyton preached there once a month until 1884.

The budget for 1883 showed an expenditure of \$137.32, with \$113.15 earmarked for the preacher's salary.

Services were held in the small building until 1892, when a frame building measuring 50 by 59 feet was erected on the same site at a cost of \$5,200. Services were held in this building, with the addition of a Sunday school room, until the congregation moved into its new \$35,000 brick building at the corner of First Street and French Avenue in February, 1930. Members of the building committee were E. F. Lanham, G. E. McCelvey, Dr. J. S. McCelvey, J. R. Layne, N. A. Ensor, Guy Garth, D. E. Temple, Mrs. James Rudd, and Mrs. Herbert McCelvey.

The work of the Sunday school has been carried on regularly, and at the present, the enrollment is 227, including 33 teachers and officers. Much interest is also shown each summer in the Daily Vacation Bible School, which is held for two weeks.

The young people's work is carried on through the Senior Youth Fellowship and the Pioneer Youth Fellowship, and the church sponsors a Boy Scout Troop, a Cub Scout Pack, and an Explorer Scout Post.

The women organized in 1885 a group known as the Women's Missionary Society with nine charter members. The present organization of the Women-of-the-Church has a membership of 114 in three day-circles and one evening-circle.

The Men-of-the-Church, organized in 1946, has a membership of 50 and meets once a month for supper, followed by programs and discussions or by work on maintaining the church property.

In 1951, property adjoining the church was bought at a cost of \$10,000 and the house was remodeled for use as the manse.

In 1953, a Hammond electronic organ was purchased to replace the pipe organ which had been bought by the Women-of-the-Church. An air conditioning unit was installed for the sanctuary and church office during the summer of 1954.

The church is now in one of its most active periods of service. With a membership of 350 and 15 elders and 21 deacons, it has a budget of \$24,000, one-fourth of which is used for benevolences. The manse is valued at \$10,000 and the church plant at \$80,000.

Realizing an increasing need for Sunday school and fellowship space, a building committee was appointed under the leadership of Y. S. Tarrant. A financial campaign under the direction of Dr. John F. McKenney raised \$77,000 in cash and pledges in a 5-week period, and cleared the way for the erection of the education building. It provides 8,000 square feet of additional space and includes extensive remodeling on the present building.

Eyes Tested FREE!

We are prepared to test your eyes and fit glasses correctly. Our Optical Department is very complete.

R. T. Crawford,
THE JEWELLER.

The Sunday Tribune.

Entered at Postoffice, Temple, Texas, as second-class Mail Matter.

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Don't forget the
LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE
Connections with 50,000
subscribers in Texas and
Ark. Call "long distance"
Southwestern Tele-
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TEMPLE, BELL COUNTY, TEXAS, SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 2, 1902.

VOL. 7, No 129.

AT COST

For One Week Longer.

All Clothing.
All Overcoats.
All Winter Underwear.
All Odd Pants.

We must and will turn these
goods into cash.

Better Come Quick and Get Pick
as they are moving out fast.

Spot Cash to All.

*Matthews Bros. Karachick
Tell the Truth Clothiers Temple, Tex.*

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF TEMPLE, TEXAS

CAPITAL, \$100,000.00. SURPLUS, \$20,000.00.

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The Family Safety Oil—The Best on Earth.

Do not be deceived or induced to use other brands of Oil represented to be as good as Eupion. The following dealers handle the GENUINE EUPION: W. S. Callaway, H. L. Sherrill, R. L. McKnight, W. B. Griffith & Co., J. C. Riley & Sons, Black Bros., J. R. Irvin, W. E. Pnett & Sons, Cheeves Bros. & Co., C. R. Boyd, C. Johnson, Willig Bros., Robinson & King, H. G. Wiggers, J. T. Lee, Geo. Sadler, D. R. Munn, J. B. Elkins, E. B. Lewellen, A. R. Siamer.

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I have the best equipped dental office in the state. All the latest improved and electric instruments on the market today. All instruments are sterilized before and after using, to prevent any infections or contagious diseases.

For the Next 30 Days:

Gold fillings..... \$1.50 and up
Bridge work, each tooth..... \$4.00 and up
Gold crowns..... \$5.00 and up
White crowns..... \$2.50 and up

Amalgam, silver, cement filling—special prices where a person has many of them.

DR. G. F. FROUWEN,

Postoffice Building.

SOCIETY AND CLUB NEWS.

Edited by Mrs. J. M. Bass.

COMING EVENTS.

Monday—At 2 p. m., Treble Clef club, with Mrs. J. R. Thompson.
At 4 p. m.—Church Societies.

Tuesday—Woman's Literary club at 3:30 p. m., with Mrs. Baker Hoskins.

Wednesday—Self Culture club at 4 p. m., with Mrs. J. R. Thompson.

At 5 p. m., Branch-Stroud wedding, First Methodist church.

At 3:30 p. m., The Thimble Club will meet with Mrs. Baker Hoskins.

Thursday—At 10 a. m., Cooking club, with Mrs. Ben Matthews.

At 4 p. m., Federation of Clubs, with Mrs. W. S. Banks.

Friday—At 3:30 p. m., Thirteen Club, with Misses Kennedy.

At 7:30 p. m., Juvenile Crokinole club, with Miss Pearl Hall.

Saturday—At 3:30 p. m., Modern Priscilla club, at home of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Gooch.

The Thirteen Club's February entertainment will be in the form of a Valentine party and will be given at the home of Mrs. W. A. Whitman, with Miss Sallie Lou Keith as hostess.

Lucile Pendleton entertained the Modern Priscilla club, Saturday afternoon in a pleasant manner. After the hour spent in fancy work refreshments were served and the club adjourned to meet with Lydia and Katie Gooch on next Saturday afternoon.

During her stay in Temple Miss Ethel Bailey has won many warm friends with her sweet face and lovable ways and it is with regret that her departure is recorded. She left Friday night for Amarillo, Texas, where she will join her mother and they will return to their home in Crystal Springs, Miss.

A Juvenile Crokinole club has been formed which promises to be quite as interesting to its participants as the famous Ninth Street club. The originators of this club are Jennie and Ara Banks, Pearl Hall, LeHenry Bass, Lucile and Ned Pendleton, Daisy and Clifton Leake, H. P. Robertson, Jr., and Grey Childers. They were entertained in a happy manner on last Friday evening, by Daisy and Clifton Leake.

Mr. Roy Tennant, formerly of this place, is visiting friends in the city.

Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Walker of Bolton are spending the day with Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Banks.

Miss Kitty Black will return from Austin the first of the week.

Misses Anderson and Young of Bastrop will accompany Mrs. Moorhead on her return home from that city.

Miss Clara Thomson returned home yesterday after a pleasant visit to friends in Houston.

A request has been made that the "Delectable Skink" be presented in Bolton, by the Temple company.

Miss Icie Rogers left yesterday for a few days' visit to relatives in Waco.

Bad weather, having interfered with meeting of Treble Clef Club Monday, it is very important to have a full meeting tomorrow as there is business needing attention.

Notwithstanding the bad weather of the past week several delightful

evenings were enjoyed by the young people over the chafing dish. The cozy parlors in the home of Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Rucker and the cordial friendliness of Miss Ethel Bailey proving irresistible attractions.

Mr. J. R. Stallings of Killean, is visiting his daughter, Mrs. H. A. Leake.

The city Federation of Women's Clubs will meet Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Banks. Every member of the several clubs is invited to be present, as the meeting will be one of especial importance, among other matters the Carnegie proposition will be discussed. This should appeal to every woman in the clubs.

The dinner given by Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Wendland on last Thursday evening in honor of Mr. and P. L. Downs, was a thoroughly delightful occasion. As the guests assembled, daintily fashioned letters were distributed and by matching these from the names P. L. and Clara Twelina, couples were formed for dinner. In the dining room the handsomely appointed table was arranged in "U" shape. In the center a pot of Oxalis formed the green center of a large star in snowy napery, in each of the five points was placed one evergreen letter, the whole forming the name Downs. At each plate pretty cards contained on the cover, Compliments of Dinner, to Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Downs, Harvey House, January 18, 1902. The reverse cover contained the names of the invited guests, as follows:

Madames and Messrs: P. L. Downs, H. P. Robertson, H. W. Tenner, F. F. Downs, R. T. Crawford, W. S. Banks, G. E. Wilcox, J. M. Bass, B. B. Greathouse, D. B. Conroy, A. C. Scott, W. B. Scott, R. G. Wendland, Mrs. Emily B. Sanford. The following menu was served in elegant style:

"There's no want of meat, sir, partly and curious viands are prepared to please all kinds of appetites."

Blue Points
Bonillon in cups, Bread sticks.
Oives, Salted Almonds, Celery.
Sweet Bread Cutlets, French Peas.
Supreme of Chicken, Bread Sauce.
Fragoles.
Roast Saddle of Venison.
Currant Jelly, Asparagus tips.
Punch Benedictine.
Shrimp Salad Mayonnaise.
Festishio Ice Cream, Cake.
Stuffed dates, Bon Bons.
Edam Cheese, Bent Water Crackers.
Coffee Deime Tasse.
"I have drunken deep of joy, and I will take no other wine tonight."
While partaking of these good things cards were passed, containing a number of conundrums entitled "Fleet of Ships." Much merriment was provoked by the various answers. Mrs. W. S. Banks and Mr. H. P. Robertson made the largest number of correct guesses, whereupon Mr. Robertson graciously withdrew his claim and Mrs. Banks was awarded a pretty statuette. Mr. Wilcox was presented with a paper cutter as a trophy.
After this the hostess announced that the honorees should be toasted, each guest offering a toast commencing with the letter awarded each one in forming couples for dinner. Many beautiful sentiments were expressed and if one-half the good wishes bestowed on the happy couple, materialize, surely they will "remember the date." Miss Downs responded in a happy manner expressing the desire that each kindly wish might rebound to the lasting pleasure of the giver. In an evening so pleasantly spent, 'tis a pity that Father Time will not stay his firm decree, for if the guests had been Cinderellas they must perforce have walked home in rags, for it was long past the hour when coachmen and horses should have turned to mice, and Cinderella's beautiful gown to its original rags.

Exchange Opera House Wed., Feb. 5th.

The Society Event of the Season,
America's Most Distinguished
Emotional Actress,

MISS

ROSE COGHLAN

in her great creation
"Stephanie" in

'FORGET ME NOT'

Supported by a cast of metro-
politan players.

FIRST APPEARANCE IN TEMPLE.

Prices, 25c, 50c, 75c and 1.00.

Exchange Opera House [3-NIGHTS-3]

Commencing Thursday, Feb. 6

Irving French

and His Jolly Company

In a repertoire of this year's great
comedy successes. Opening in the
four act comedy entitled

"A Runaway Wife"

The laughing success of the season.
High class singing and dancing.
Rich costumes and special scenery
for each act throughout. Prices
10, 20 and 30 Cents.

LADIES FREE opening night
only, if accompanied by an escort
with one paid 30 cent ticket.
Seats on sale Thursday a. m.



Threatening

To have that carriage repaired will
never get it done—the only way to
do a thing is to do it. Let us have
a look at your vehicle—be it car-
riage, runabout or wagon, even if
it's only the least "bit out of kilter"
and we'll put it in good shape in a
jiffy. Won't cost so much, at that.
We have been overhauling our
machinery and added more up-to-
date tools and are better prepared
than ever before to accommodate
our customers. Give us a call.

Knight & Livingston.

DON'T THINK FOR A MINUTE you've seen
all there is to be seen in the GROCERY world
until you pass through this establishment.

SEE MY LINE

Before you buy and you'll buy my line.

SATISFACTION goes with every order sold
from this store.

Does Your Grocer Satisfy?

If not, it's a good time to try

W. S. CALLAWAY, the Grocer,

PHONE NO. 1

For 25c a Month

You can read the Century, Har-
pers, Scribners, Cosmopolitan, Mun-
sey's Smart Set, Metropolitan,
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We add new books to our library
every week. We require a deposit
of \$1.00 and charge 25 cents a
for dues. Your money all back if
we don't please you.

Harvey & Lucas Book Store.



The Big End.

You will readily see that you
have the big end of the bargain
when you buy a bill of lumber here.
It is clear, straight grained, well
seasoned, and properly dressed—it's
the best lumber you can buy, and
we will save you all the trouble
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for we will build it complete.

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Heater Blocks, Oak
and Ash Stove Wood,
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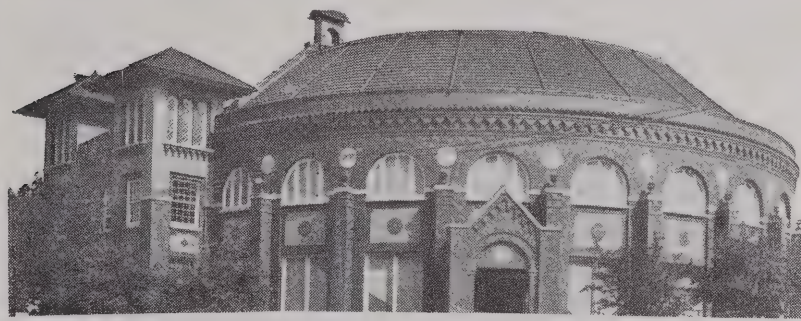
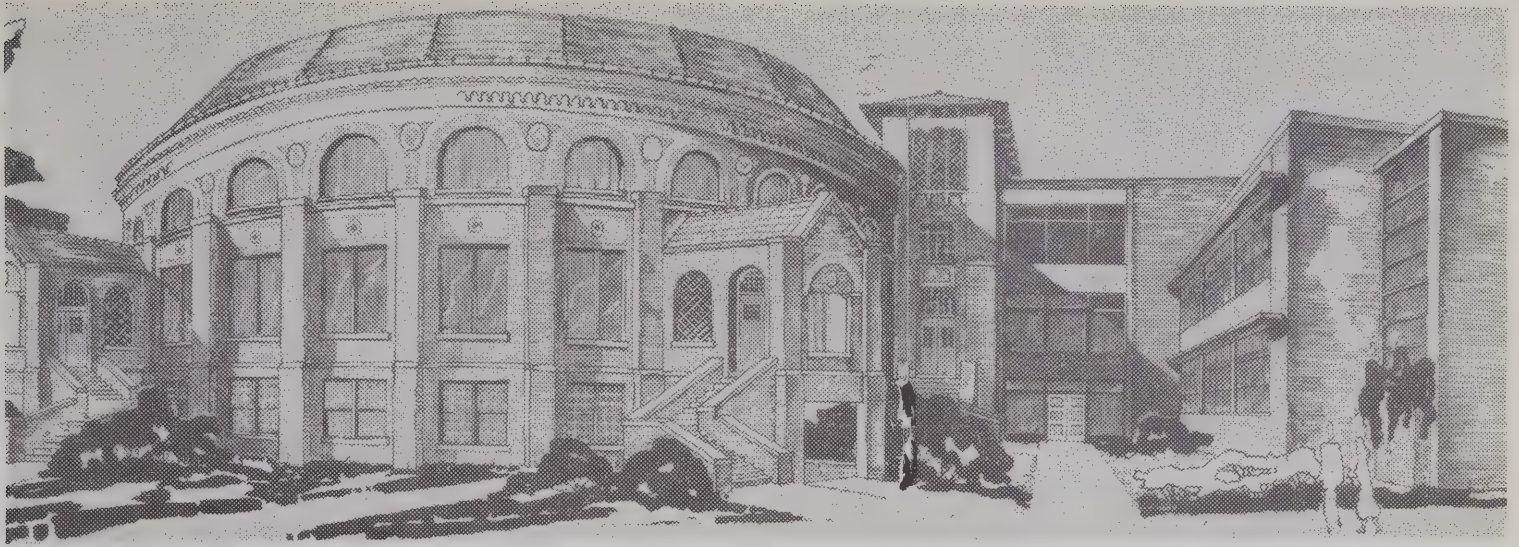
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Try Our Cleaning?

Will You give us one trial?
If the work is not equal or
superior to any done in the
city, don't pay for it.

Suits cleaned and pressed from
\$1 to \$1.25. Ladies' skirts a
specialty.

Buckeye Dye Works,
116 Avenue A.



LANDMARK SINCE 1912



FUTURE LEADERS

FIRST METHODIST, TEMPLE

Before Temple came into being, there was a little Methodist society in the country called Double File. Services were held at the schoolhouse which stood for many years at the turning point of the old Shallow Ford road, one mile southwest of town. This place was an appointment on the Belton circuit.

Apparently the first published reference to Methodism in Temple was in a history written by Dr. Alex Dienst. He said that after the town of Temple was established in 1882, the Double File congregation of 27 members was transferred to town under the pastorage of Rev. J. M. Porter. Rev. E. R. Barcus served this congregation at an evening service held once a month during part of 1882 and 1883.

So, the little rural society at Double File could be considered the forerunner of the present First Methodist Church of Temple.

The first church building was erected in 1884 at the corner of Ave. B and S. Fourth.

In 1885 Temple, Troy and Rogers shared the services of Rev. A. P. Taylor. Rev. D. H. Dickey was pastor in 1886, followed by Dr. T. F. Mitchell, and Rev. Tom C. Ragsdale. Rev. Dickey returned for a short time and was succeeded in 1889 by Rev. C. W. Daniels.

Rev. John M. Barcus was appointed for the second time in 1895 and served four years, followed by Rev. George S. Wyatt.

In 1891 about 90 members separated to form the "southside" church and a building was erected on the present First Methodist site.

Rev. Hubert D. Knickerbocker, described as a man who believed in impassioned oratory and tragedian gestures and knew how to use them, became pastor in 1901. He was followed by Rev. C. R. Wright and, in 1904, by Rev. Sam P. Wright. Rev. M. S. Hotchkiss came in 1906, to be followed by Rev. Simeon Shaw.

Quoting from a historical sketch by Nita Huckabee written in 1954: "The fiery Rev. Bob Shuler came in 1908, and it was during his term here in 1911 that one cold Wednesday night shortly after prayer meeting the stately stone edifice went up in flames.

"Less than a week later the young pastor with his building committee, only one of whom survives, J. R. Spencer, set about to erect . . . our present building."

This beautiful building, completed in 1912, has served as the nucleus of the present modern church plant.

Subsequent pastors have included Revs. E. A. Smith, Herman Knickerbocker, John W. Bergen, J. H. Groseclose, E. B. Hawk, J. W. Fort, T. Edgar Neal, W. L. Barr, C. Raymond Gray, E. R. Barcus, C. R. Shugart, R. J. LaPrade, Roy Langston, Leslie Boone, J. W. Whitefield, Maggart B. Howell and Dr. L. Stanley Williams, the incumbent.



SEVENTH STREET METHODIST

The Northwest Texas Conference of the Methodist Church South, at its annual session in November 1891, authorized the establishment of a mission church in South Temple. Rev. R. C. Armstrong was the presiding elder. Rev. W. H. Terry was appointed pastor, and the present site was purchased in December 1891.

The first membership consisted of 90 members, most of them coming from the church on the north side, now First Methodist Church, and some from Old Rock Church, Midway. Of the 90 then enrolled, 14 were present on the 25th anniversary meeting. Today, after another quarter of a century, there are only two present, Mrs. Reta Cox and Mrs. Vernon from Belton.

After being known as the Southside Methodist Church for several years, Dr. Nelms, presiding elder, at a quarterly conference in 1899, suggested that the church be given a more definite name and that it be named for the street on which it was located. Since that time it has been known as the Seventh Street Methodist Church.

The church was on a mission board for about 15 years, receiving from \$100 to \$400 a year from the conference. During the pastorate of Rev. A. W. Hall between 1904 and 1908 it became self-supporting—paying the pastor a salary of \$500 a year which had been gradually increased to \$1,800 by 1941.

During Rev. Hall's pastorate, every Methodist in South Temple was identified with Seventh Street except one family which was not permanently located here.

The old original building served needs of the congregation for about 15 years, but with a growing town, a membership of 500, a live Sunday School with an attendance of 250-300 and the introduction of modern Sunday School methods, a need for more

room confronted every new pastor. During the pastorate of Rev. E. V. Cox in 1912 to 1915, action was taken to remedy conditions. At this time a balcony was built in both the Sunday School annex and the main auditorium but this only proved temporary relief and the need for a new church was ever present. Rev. P. T. Stanford in 1921 organized the congregation into a plan of systematic giving and with the funds thus accumulated, the old church was torn down and the basement of the new church was built during the pastorate of Rev. C. E. Simpson in 1924.

The congregation worshipped in the basement, but it was inadequate for the Sunday School and in a few years an annex was built by two adult classes and with the coming of Rev. J. B. Curry, a Sunday School specialist, the church was finally completed.

The cornerstone was laid May 3, 1931.

Pastors who have served Seventh Street Methodist Church are as follows: Revs. W. H. Terry, 1891-1894; G. W. White, 1894-1895; J. M. Armstrong, 1895-1899; S. J. Rucker, 1899-1900; John A. Wallace, 1900-1902; A. L. Moore, 1902-1903; Thomas S. Barcus, 1903-1904; A. W. Hall, 1904-1908; W. J. Hearon, 1908-1910; J. G. Pollard, 1910-1912; E. V. Cox, 1912-1915; J. W. Sharbut, 1917-1918; R. W. Nation, 1918-1920; P. T. Stanford, 1920-1922; C. E. Simpson, 1922-1925; E. M. Wisdom, 1925-1929; J. B. Curry, 1929-1931; J. L. Luker, 1931-1932; W. R. Beaird, 1932-1934; E. M. Scarlett, 1934-1937; R. H. Boyd, 1937-1940; George French, 1940-1941; H. B. Loyd, 1941-1943; Allen Peacock, 1943-1944; W. A. Flynn, 1945-1946; Hubert Crain, 1946-1947; Elmer Carter, 1948-1952; U. A. Schultz, 1952-1955; J. D. F. Williams, 1955-1956; Joseph I. Patterson, 1956—.

In the summer of 1949 a new education building was started and completed Nov. 30, 1949. In 1955, the new parsonage was built on S. 13th St.

FIRST CHURCH OF NAZARENE

The First Church of the Nazarene was organized in March, 1916, with 28 members. Elder H. G. Land served as pastor pro tem. On April 16, 1916, Rev. Leo F. Maedgen was appointed pastor.

The first annual church meeting was held on October 30, 1916. At this meeting Rev. H. G. Land was unanimously elected pastor. The first revival meeting was held on December 12, 1916, by Rev. H. C. White.

The first church property was purchased in 1921 at the corner of South 4th St. and East Ave. G. A new church building was erected and the mortgage was burned in a Sunday morning service on July 4, 1941. Rev. Joe Tyson was the first pastor to serve in the new church.

Due to expansion, the property on the corner of South 3rd St. and Avenue H was purchased in 1946, and construction began on the present First Church of The Nazarene. The first service was held in the new auditorium on Easter Sunday 1947. Rev. B. D. Radebaugh is now serving as pastor.

TEMPLE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Church of Christ had its beginning in Temple in the summer of 1908. The first meeting of this congregation was held in the home of Mrs. George Christian with ten members present.

The place of meeting changed, as the congregation grew, from private homes of members to the public library building. In 1913 the present location of the church at the corner of 7th St. and Ave. G was purchased. From this small beginning, the church



has grown until today there are four congregations in Temple.

On March 3, 1957, the fourth congregation had its first service. This new church plant is at the corner of 41st St. and Ave. T. This expansion was necessitated by the overflow attendance at the 4th and Barton St. and the Avenue G Churches of Christ. The members of the Church of Christ at 7th and Avenue G gave approximately \$42,000 in cash and

the officers of the church signed a \$50,000 note to make possible the erection of the new building.

The 371 active members of this congregation are overseen by six elders and the group is served by eleven deacons. The 1957 budget calls for an expenditure of \$33,800 or a weekly contribution of \$650. The money thus contributed will be used to help support two orphans' homes, a home for aged Christians, a nationwide radio program, missionaries in Japan, Germany, France, and Switzerland, as well as local benevolence and church work. A reading room is also maintained daily from 9:00 to 5:00 and is open to all visitors.

An active program of teaching has been maintained by this local group from its beginning.

CHURCH OF NAZARENE, BELTON

Belton's Church of the Nazarene was organized in 1940 in a tent with 22 charter members.

Soon the congregation purchased property at the corner of Pearl and Eighth Ave., wrecked an old residence and built a rock building. An education annex and parsonage were later added.

Growth of the church has not been fast, but has been steady.

In 1949 the Belton congregation helped organize a Church of the Nazarene at Killeen, losing a good many of its members who lived at Killeen.

Membership of the Belton church is now 78 with a Sunday School of 130 members.

Rev. L. Lee Gaines is the pastor.

ST. PAUL'S METHODIST

Temple's newest Methodist Church was established in 1952 under the leadership of Rev. Dr. W. V. Bane, district superintendent, and Rev. George Mitchell.

Rev. Robert Oglesby was the first full-time minister. The church lost its temporary name of Southwest Methodist, the area it was intended to serve, and became Saint Paul's Methodist Church in June, 1952. On August 3, the charter membership roll was closed with 40 names.

The District Board of Missions bought three acres of land adjacent to the Scott Elementary School in the summer of 1952. In the spring of 1953 the congregation accepted title and began payment on the church property. The parsonage, which is located at 1805 South 37th St., was bought in like manner.

Services were held at the V.F.W. building until the present church was erected. The congregation worshipped in the new building for the first time, the first Sunday in December of 1954. Rev. Michael Patison was pastor at that time.

The present pastor, Rev. John K. McKee, was appointed in June of 1955. The course of events under his leadership has been primarily one of growth. The membership in March of 1957 numbered 174. 141



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH, KILLEEN



BELL COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION MEETING, KILLEEN, 1905



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC

Catholic services were held in Bell County homes by visiting priests, including Rev. John Lauth of Taylor, before any parish was established, and later in rented quarters.

In 1896 Saint Mary's Catholic Church at Temple built its first plant on property that was later sold to Scott and White Hospital. It was at the corner of S.

3rd and Ave. F.

The next church was completed in 1929 between S. 7th and S. 9th. With many changes and additions it still serves the congregation.

The latest addition, built in 1953, is a large, beautiful hall.



SUNSET BAPTIST

The Sunset Baptist Church was started as a mission of the First Baptist Church of Killeen late in 1954 and is now a church with a full program which meets in its own building on land it owns.

Five persons attended that first meeting — Rev. and Mrs. Homer D. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stewart and their daughter, Mary.

Meetings were held in the Avenue D school until October 1956 when the congregation of 51 with a Sunday school attendance of 60 moved into its own building. The mission had become a regular church on April 22, 1956.

In 1955, Rev. Alexander resigned as pastor for health reasons but remained a church member. He was replaced in the pulpit by Rev. Bobby Ellis, who resigned early in 1957 and was replaced by Rev. W. M. Kemp, a teacher at Mary Hardin Baylor College. Membership had grown to about 70 and plans were begun for the construction of a new and larger plant on the two-acre lot which corners on W. Avenue and C and Gilmer.

Officers in 1957 were: Mrs. Joe P. McDonald, clerk; Edward Clark, chairman of deacons and music director; James P. Pittman, Sunday school superintendent; James W. Gault, treasurer; Joe Austin, brotherhood president; Mrs. Dalton R. Moore, W. M. U. president; Mrs. W. M. Kemp, training union director and Miss Yvonne Welborn, pianist.



KILLEEN NAZARENE

The Killeen Church of the Nazarene was organized Oct. 18, 1950 at the close of an evangelistic campaign conducted in a tent on Rancier Ave.

Rev. A. C. Randle III was installed as pastor and served until January, 1952. During this time a church building was erected at Franz Dr. and Culp Ave.

Rev. Randle was succeeded by Rev. Ivy Bohannon, who still serves the church.

In the fall of 1952 the congregation moved into the present building at 2nd St. and Dunn Ave. which had been built by the members during the summer.



EAST SIDE BAPTIST, KILLEEN



BELFALLS BAPTIST

The Baptist church at the little settlement of Belfalls, near the county line east of Troy, has served a wide area since it was organized in 1895. Many a fine feed has been spread under the covered pa-

vilion next to the church building.

Known to be charter members are Mrs. Tull Bryant and Susie Bryant and Messrs. and Mmes. W. C. Weaver, Butler, J. Rector and Dick Embry.



CEDAR CREEK BAPTIST

An October Sunday in 1956 was a big day for the patrons of Cedar Creek Baptist Church — they were celebrating their 100th anniversary with an all-day meeting.

Rev. A. L. Bone of Belton spoke at the morning services. Afternoon speakers included Rev. Forehand, Mrs. Lillie Finch, Mrs. J. B. Messer and Mrs. I. L. Martin. Special music was furnished by Bobby Messer and Dwain Marshall of Temple and by two singing groups from Moffat.

Thoughts harked back to the days when ox-carts loaded with logs had plodded from Moffat to build the first Cedar Creek Church. Rev. Anderson Clark from South Carolina was the first pastor. He was paid \$200 per year in corn and other vegetables. That was his official pay, but he no doubt said grace over many a heaping dinner table at the homes of the various members.



Charter members, in addition to the preacher and his wife, included Mr. and Mrs. Olin Clark, Mr. Pace, Tom Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Bird and the ancestors of Lee Safley, M. Barnett, John Epperson, M. Forrest, William Drake, and the Taylor, Harrell and Tidwell families.

Rev. Clerk and a few men soon built the Birdsdales Baptist Church five miles from Cedar Creek and a Rev. Smith took over. A windstorm blew the building down and it had to be rebuilt.

Rev. Forehand became pastor of Cedar Creek in 1919 and served until 1926. His salary was \$128 a year and the church budget was \$144 a year.

The two persons at the all-day meeting who had been members the longest were Miss Lou Epperson and Mrs. Ike Martin — 48 years each — but mere youngsters in the overall history of Cedar Creek Church, for it is thought to be the oldest Baptist church in Bell County.

The building burned while Rev. James Taylor was pastor, and in 1941 a new building was erect-

ed. In 1944 the Berea church disbanded and donated the material from its building to Cedar Creek for use in building classrooms.

Later pastors include Revs. Glen Hayden, Ernest Duncin, Billy Norton, Luther Dillard, J. W. Alexander, Milton Martin and the present, Byron Orand.

N. Messer donated the land on which the original building was built in 1856. When the church had to be moved to make way for Belton Lake, land for the new site was donated by J. B. Messer.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH

In the latter part of 1880 and the spring of 1881, a Rev. Gomer, missionary for the Evangelical Church, visited several Texas towns including some in Bell County, and returned in 1882 to preach to 15 persons in the home of a Mr. Hartrick near Temple. Present at this first service were William Kuscke and others who had recently come from Wisconsin.

Soon other Evangelicals migrated from the north and services were held in the home of Christian Blohm and at a small schoolhouse on the north side of Temple.

In this schoolhouse on October 29, 1882, the congregation with 21 charter members and a Sunday school of 47 members was officially organized. W. H. Bachman was elected Class Leader, the ranking lay leader, and R. Priebe became a local preacher, attending to the needs of the church until a regular minister was assigned.

On November 26, 1882, after a service of worship, Rev. Gomer suggested the need of a church building, and before evening \$407.50 had been subscribed. After \$1,200 had been secured in cash and pledges, the building proceeded. The Santa Fe Railroad Company donated a suitable site to the congregation on South Main Street and Avenue F. They also hauled the materials for building the Church over their lines at half rate.

The new church building was dedicated on May 13, 1883. Mr. R. Priebe conducted services every Sunday until Rev. A. Mattill of the Kansas Conference became the first regular pastor in September 1883.

Originally the church building faced north, fronting Avenue F. Later it was remodeled, turned to face South Main Street, and a side room was added. A new parsonage was built in the early 1930s to replace two old two-story houses on the church property.

The Texas Conference of the Evangelical Association was organized in the Temple church on November 25, 1887, under the chairmanship of Bishop J. J. Escher. Here the entire work of this denomination in Texas was officially organized and the future determined.

In 1946 this church was included in the merger of The Evangelical Church and The Church of the United Brethren in Christ, becoming the First Evangelical United Brethren Church of Temple.



MEMORIAL BAPTIST

Memorial Baptist Church of Temple, an organization of over 1,200 resident members and an annual budget exceeding \$60,000, had its beginnings as a mission of the First Baptist Church.

The mission became Memorial Baptist Church in 1892 with 12 charter members headed by the pastor, Dr. John Hill Luther. First services were held at the corner of 13th and Ave. F.

About 1905 the church was moved to the corner of 7th and Ave. G. Additions were made to the building from time to time as needed. In 1913 a half block at the present site was purchased and the building at the corner of 13th and Ave. I was erected.

In 1948 the present sanctuary was erected at a cost of \$100,000 at the corner of 13th and Ave. H. In 1956 a new education building was provided between these two sanctuaries at a cost exceeding \$120,000. The two story building contains over 16,000 square feet of floor space.

The pastor's home was built on the block south of the main church property in 1948 at a cost of \$20,000.

Rev. George H. Brown is the present pastor. Other officers include John Christy, director of music and education; Mrs. Marvin Weber, church secretary; C. B. McQueen, chairman of deacons and Reginald Evans, Sunday school superintendent.

FIRST CHRISTIAN, TEMPLE

Temple's First Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church was organized in a tent in 1888 by Rev. W. S. Lockhart, and the first building, a frame structure, was erected at 8 N. 4th St.

The congregation occupied their next building dur-

ing the ministry of Rev. S. D. Perkinson in 1903. It was of red brick-veneer with white stone trimming and located at the corner of 3rd and Adams.

A two-story education annex was built in 1914.

Ground was broken for the present building in November, 1947 with J. E. Brewster, aged 95, turning the first shovel of earth. Mr. and Mrs. Brewster donated the land upon which the church was completed less than one year later.

J. Emzy Nichols donated the cornerstone.

The entire plant is of fireproof construction brick, stone, concrete and metal. A network of copper pipes laid in the concrete floors provides thermostatically controlled heating.

The education building is of two stories and the large rooms for departments and classes have been painted with different pastel colors, making each room individual yet in perfect harmony with all the others.



FIRST BAPTIST, KILEEN



FIRST CHRISTIAN, BELTON

The Disciples of Christ, popularly known as the Christian Church, had an informal organization at Belton as early as the 70's, but the First Christian Church was not officially organized until 1885.

The old church burned in 1882 and the congregation immediately began raising funds for a new building. A ladies aid society was organized in 1884 with Mrs. E. E. Chevalier, president; Mrs. Jesse W. Pierce, secretary and Mrs. Thomas Yarrell, treasurer. The society immediately began raising funds for a new building, which was completed in 1887 at the corner of Third and Penelope. Elders C. S. Kendrick and J. H. Rosecrance were in charge of the first services.

The first pastor was Elder S. K. Hallam. Following him were R. R. Hamblin, B. F. Wilson, D. W. Pritchett, Philip F. King, M. S. Dunning, C. E. Radford, George W. Lee, Rev. Montgomery, W. M. Williams, E. C. Boynton, Lawrence Williams, Ross A. Marcus, J. Frank Holmes, Roger H. Fife, C. E. Smith, A. D. Rogers, A. G. Abbott, Norman D. Dyer, Lenton L. Poss, James Moudy, Rudolph Tatsch, Powell A. Smith, Eldon Bryant and the incumbent, Clarence A. Doss, who came in 1953.

By 1900 the church had 150 members. The board of elders consisted of Col. J. Z. Miller Sr., J. P. Reed, Judge D. R. Pendleton and J. F. Elliott.

During the pastorate of W. M. Williams (1908-12) the congregation moved to its present location on the corner of the public square. The building had previously been the old Belton Opera House which had burned in 1904 and was remodeled to fit the needs of the church. At a later date the annex to the east of the church was purchased. It had been occupied by a bank.

In 1920 the Christian Churches of Texas held their first statewide encampment at the Confederate Park in Belton. This encampment was held for seven consecutive years, for about three weeks in July. Outstanding national church leaders taught courses, lec-

tured and preached at nightly services. The auditorium seated 2,500 persons and there was a restaurant on the grounds charging low rates. Tents and cots were rented and Nolan Creek afforded fishing, boating and swimming.

For three years during World War II the church rented its building to the U.S.O. and held its services in the old Tarver schoolhouse. At the close of the war the sanctuary was remodeled at a cost of \$17,500. The educational unit was remodeled and air conditioned in 1955 at a cost of \$18,000.

The First Christian Church of Belton now has 225 members.

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Central Christian Church of Holland was organized in 1898 and its first building was erected the next year.

Charter members included Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Hughes, J. W. Sellers, W. S. Reed, Mr. and Mrs. Eli Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Murrah, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Douthit, Mr. and Mrs. Pink Stafford, Mrs. L. M. Jones, Mrs. Texana Rucker, Mrs. John Mewhinney, Mrs. Hugh Mewhinney, Mrs. Lena Haydon Cox, Mrs. Susie Haydon Bouchillon, Mrs. Couch and daughters and Mrs. Wallace Houston.

A Ladies Aid was organized immediately. Members quilted, went into homes and sewed, served turkey dinners and ice cream suppers and soon raised funds to purchase an organ.

In 1910 Mrs. Kate Starke and Mrs. J. R. Sybert solicited donations and bought a piano that is still in use.

The original building was remodeled in 1946 and new classrooms added.

Central Christian is associated with two other congregations in the Bell County Unity of Christian Churches under the leadership of J. Wilfred Carter.





EAST SIDE BAPTIST—This relatively new Temple church operated as a chapel branch of the First Baptist Church from December 1951 until

1954 when it became independent. The first pastor was James Janeway, who left for Navy service in 1954 and was succeeded by Rev. Gus Hayworth.



CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH, TEMPLE



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

First Lutheran Church had its beginnings in 1886 when a traveling Lutheran missionary came to Temple and organized a congregation. There were 13 charter members. Mrs. Mollie Bosl is the only living charter member.

The first church was built at South 4th and Ave. F. In 1914 the congregation relocated. A church was built at Ave. G and South 1st St. In 1929 this church was rebuilt and added to.

Now First Lutheran Church is to move again. A new church plant will be constructed at West Adams and 31st St. on a half-block overlooking the intersections of Highways 81 and 36. It will be of colonial architecture, costing close to \$300,000.

First Lutheran Church today has more than 650 baptized members. The present pastor is Rev. Raymond Schliesser.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Christian Science services were held in Temple prior to 1897 in the home of John Allen and in the home of Mrs. Kate O. Stitt from 1900 through 1908.

By that time a number of Temple citizens had become students of Christian Science. In April of that year they met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Stitt and organized a Christian Science Society composed of the following charter members:

Mrs. Kate O. Stitt, Sam D. Stitt, William E. Caswell, Mrs. Minnie Caswell, Mrs. Jamie Spawn, Mrs. Lucy Methvin, Mrs. Sallie Lykes, Mrs. Regina Shutt, George P. Wilson, Mrs. Sue P. Tirado, Mrs. Effie Nettleton, Mrs. Maetta P. Coons, John Mathews, and Mrs. Ada Mathews.

Meetings were held in various rented quarters. A Sunday school for children up to the age of 20 was organized in 1909 and a reading room was opened

to the public in 1910.

In 1914 the Society became the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Temple. A charter was obtained.

A permanent church building was completed in 1925, but was not dedicated until 1932 because no Christian Science building can be dedicated until it is entirely free of debt. The church body elects a board of directors which administers the secular affairs of the church. Sunday services are conducted by two readers also elected by the church membership. The King James version of the Bible and the Christian Science textbook are the only preachers and the readers read what is known as a Lesson-Sermon which is composed of Scriptural texts and their correlative passages from the denominational textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy. The Temple church also holds Wednesday evening meetings which include readings from the Bible and the Christian Science textbook read by the First Reader, and testimonies and remarks from the audience.

BAPTIST CHURCH, HOLLAND

The Baptist Church was organized at Holland about 1887 with Rev. J. Mickle as its first pastor.

Charter members included Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Upshaw, Misses Molly and Sallie Upshaw, Harriet, Billie and Susie Mickle, Miss Betty Taylor and one or two others.

Pastors have included J. Mickle, R. N. Thompson, M. L. Lanford, J. E. Buchannon, M. M. Wolfe, E. C. Ely, W. P. Green, J. A. Reynolds, E. G. Townsend, W. A. Tunage, W. L. Whitley, R. W. McCann, B. B. Blaylock, Edward Thompson, W. A. Bowen, R. C. Bass, R. J. Fletcher, J. W. Durham, L. M. Joiner, J. H. Durham, W. P. Crow, Robert Perry, R. E. Smith, C. H. Cadwallader, E. R. Couch, Tilson Maynard, R. G. Alexander, Carol Jones, Noel W. Guice, Ray McGlamery, M. G. Ellis, B. J. Bell, Harvey Tipton, Wiley Anderson, Allen Stephens and W. L. Key, the present minister.

On the board of deacons in 1922 were G. W. Nelson, T. A. Upshaw, J. W. Huckabee, P. F. Allison, R. A. England, Frank W. Futrell, Rex Williams and C. A. Bobo. Church officers in 1922 included C. A. Bobo, clerk; Mrs. J. W. Sellers, treasurer; Mrs. Carrie Shannon, treasurer of the 75 million fund; Mrs. Frank Futrell, president of the Ladies Aid Society; Frank Futrell, Sunday school superintendent and Miss Annie Laurie Mewhinney, president of the BYPU.

Holland has seen the erection of three Baptist church buildings. The first was on the property which the Holland water well now occupies. This church was dismantled about 1908 and a more modern and commodious edifice was built a little to the north. This building burned about 1927, a lot across the street was purchased and the present church was erected. A pastorium stands nearby.



NOLANVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The last week in August each year is the occasion for a big Church of Christ meeting at Nolanville. Sometimes people have come from as many as six different states.

The Nolanville Church of Christ was established in the early 80's and met in the schoolhouse as did all other denominations for a time.

Some of the first members came from the Cedar Grove Church in the Cow House Valley. They included George and Martha Dougherty, Gus and Emma Kaiser and Hiram Reynolds and his mother. Other early members were Mr. and Mrs. Charley Bunn, the Bighams, Warrens, Wills, James and Vesta Sutton and G. W. Walton, who had established the church in Cow House Valley and donated 16 acres to the church at Nolanville.

Families from Mountain View who joined in the first protracted meeting on this land and later helped to build the church building included the Sprotts, Pates, Wrights, John C. Cox, Wilson Parmer and Sam Dockery.

Among early - day members still attending the meetings in 1956 were Mrs. Joe Sprott, Mrs. Tobe Hughes, Mrs. Lon Sutton, Mr. and Mrs. John Wills and Mrs. Gilbert Jackson.



ORIGINAL NOLANVILLE CHURCH



CZECH MORAVIAN BRETHREN

The Czech Moravian Brethren Church was organized at Holland in 1910 at the home of Martin Martinet by Rev. Joseph Barton Sr.

First elders were Tom Hunka, Martin Martinet, Frank Stuchlik and Frank Bobalik.

For a time services were held in the homes of the members and then in the old Hackberry schoolhouse for about a year. Then the old Baptist church at Hackberry was used until 1917 when the congregation built its own building three and one half miles southwest of Holland.

The old building was torn down in 1949 and a new structure was built in Holland.

Preachers who have served since 1917 include Joseph Barton Sr., Joseph Hegar, Rev. Vavrina, Joseph Barton Jr. and Albert Michalik. Presently serving are Revs. Gordon Hiji and F. J. Kostohryz.

Sunday school is held each week and regular church services are held every other week.

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

About four years after the sale of town lots in Temple by the Santa Fe Railroad, Christ Episcopal Church came into being as a mission of Saint Luke's Church at Belton. The mission was founded by Bishop Gregg, first bishop of Texas, assisted by the Revs. Hogue and Wey. There were 15 communicants.

The mission's first building was erected on a lot donated by George Sealy of Galveston and Rev. J. A. Duncan was appointed the first priest-in-charge. This was in 1889 and the list of communicants now contained 65 names.

Under the guidance of the first rector, Rev. T. J. Sloan who served from 1902 to 1906, the mission was admitted as a parish in 1902.

The cornerstone of the present building was laid in 1905.

The rector is Rev. J. B. Dobbins, who has served Christ Church since 1930.



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Dedicated late in 1956, the plant of Immanuel Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) at Temple is a fine example of planning which provides in one package dignity, physical beauty and enduring construction.

The growth that made possible this \$105,000 church was not rapid when compared to some other churches. At first, there were not enough members of the denomination in the area to support a Lutheran Church. Then, with a few more members added, the great depression came along and slowed the payment of the debt incurred with the building of a new building in prosperous 1928. But, then came populous Camp Hood and an influx of more Lutherans who were served at the Lutheran Service Center in downtown Temple. A bus service from the Center to the church was inaugurated. Lots of the population increase remained after the war, adding support to the church.

As far back as 1916 Rev. Louis J. Werner, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church at Copperas Cove, sometimes conducted services in the city hall, now the central fire station. Other ministers helped also, including the minister of the American Lutheran Church which had been founded at Temple in the 1880s.

Temple's Immanuel Lutheran considers the date of its founding as August 20, 1924, when services were held in the home of Mrs. C. H. Falke at the suggestion of Rev. Frederick W. Behrmann, who was often called upon to minister to Lutherans in Temple's fast growing hospitals.

The first resident pastor, Rev. Arthur Beyer, was installed in ceremonies at the old Y.M.C.A. building in 1926. Among the charter or very early members were C. H. Fölke, W. J. Wald, A. W. Hansen, R. L. Zinglemann, Charlie Mersiovsky, Oscar Mirtsching and Herman Luehrs.

An eight-grade school was opened in 1946. Its first student was Shirley Miersch and the first graduates were Lois Hanusch, Floyd Sanders and Marvin Winkler. Auxiliary organizations for all ages and both sexes have been active, dating from the organization of the Walther League in 1928 and the Men's Club in 1939.

By 1956 the congregation numbered 425 persons, 260 communicants and 58 voters. The Sunday school had 28 teachers and 254 pupils. Rev. Daniel D. Dautenhahn was pastor. Henry C. Niermeir was principal of the school, assisted by Mrs. Martha Cooley and the pastor's wife.



FIRST METHODIST, BELTON

Belton's First Methodist Church celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1950. Although there is no record of the official organization of the church or list of its charter members there is a deed whereby the commissioners of the newly-created Bell County conveyed land to trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, for a building site. The deed was filed Nov. 19, 1850 and the trustees named were Archibald T. McCorkle, William H. Titchenal and James E. Williams.

Much of the information on this old church came from Mrs. E. R. Everett, whose parents are said to have been the first couple married in a church in Belton. They were Sarah Ann Carpenter and Sem Kegley and they were married in 1855 by Rev. William H. Hubert, head of a circuit established in 1854 and headquartered at Belton.

It is thought that Methodist missionaries had already visited this part of Texas before the denomination divided into a northern and southern branch in 1846. A "Rev. Gilmer," thought to have been Rev. Thomas G. Gilmore, came to this as yet unnamed community in 1849 and held services in a grove of trees near where the Ranch House Hotel now stands.

Circuit Rider James H. Addison is credited with being the first pastor of the Belton church. One of his letters tells of preaching in the little town of "Nolensville" in January of 1851. Records show that Belton was known as Nolansville for a short time after its founding.

For some time before the Methodists constructed

their own building they held services in the Cumberland Presbyterian building which had been built in 1854.

During the late '50s and early '60s the Methodists built a church on the site given to them by the county. It was of native stone and hand-hewn cedar and had a seating capacity of 300 according to some accounts. It was located near the present County Health Center on Pearl Street.

Rev. John Carpenter, father of Mrs. Everett, served as pastor in 1857 and again in 1865 after a period during the Civil War when there was no preacher.

In 1877 a Ladies Aid Society was organized by Mrs. J. J. Thompson. Charter members included Mmes. H. C. Ghent, Sem Kegley, C. I. Bowman, X. B. Saunders, John Way and Winnie and Margaret Davenport.

A new site was bought and a new building erected in 1886. This building was said to be one of the finest in Texas. In 1925 the high steeple and part of the tower was condemned and was removed. The old stained glass windows were in a bad condition and were discarded. They were replaced by other memorial windows in 1950.

The basic architecture of the old building is ageless and it has been kept up-to-date and in good repair with the addition of such comforts as automatic heating. New buildings for education and other purposes have been built through the years as the need for them has arisen.



BELTON CHURCH OF CHRIST

In 1912 six families organized the Belton Church of Christ and about 20 persons began meeting regularly for services.

The passing of almost half a century has seen many ministers laboring to help the church grow to its present membership of nearly 400.

There have been several changes in the church building through the years and changes are still being made. The church has recently increased its seating capacity to 600.

The building is a modern, completely air conditioned structure finished in Austin stone.

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL

Saint Christopher's Episcopal Church at Killeen has its own land and buildings, an average attendance at services of around 100 and great plans for the future.

Organization of the church was accomplished in 1951 after much effort by Killeen's few civilian Episcopalians and help from Episcopal Chaplains E. D. Horstman and Howard F. Klein, then stationed at Fort Hood.

The church membership is composed of about 75 per cent service - connected personnel and 25 per

cent civilians. The Army families have always been welcomed as participating members rather than "guests," for, in the words of Rev. John A. Desel, "Civilian members of the congregation realistically face the fact that their numbers are not sufficient to support an Episcopal Church in Killeen, and that they must look to the Army members for help. But then, the Army members also realistically face the fact that it is to their eternal benefit that they become full participating members of the local church."

This teamwork has paid off. Growth has been continuous and sound.

When the first priest-in-charge was called to other fields in 1951 services were conducted for a time by seminary students from Austin and elsewhere with monthly visits from seminary professors.

In February of 1952 Rev. L. F. A. Kracke was put in charge of both Saint Christopher's at Killeen and Saint Luke's at Belton. During this period the Killeen church purchased five lots for a future building site.

In July, 1953 Rev. Grant A. Herbst, newly graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary, became deacon-in-charge of the Killeen and Belton churches. He conducted the first services in the new \$17,500 parish hall-church on March 7, 1954. In June of that year Rev. Herbst was assigned to the Belton church full time and Rev. John A. Desal, another recent Virginia Seminary graduate, was assigned to Killeen.

A debt-free Sunday school wing was added to the church in 1955.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, TEMPLE

What is now the First Baptist Church of Temple was organized in the old community of Birdsdale, near the site of Bird's Creek Battleground, about 250 yards southeast of the present country club and about one mile west of the public square of Temple, which had not yet been founded.

Rev. Anderson Clark came by ox wagon in 1886 to the Leon River, just below the present bridge on the Temple-Belton highway. Here he built a log house and became a member of the community of Birdsdale, which sported a postoffice, Grange store, schoolhouse, blacksmith shop and a few modest homes. It was he, with Revs. G. S. Joiner and W. M. Witt, who organized the Birdsdale Baptist Church in 1874 with 19 members who met in the schoolhouse for the first three or four years. They then built their own building, exchanging 25 cent-per-bushel corn for lumber which was hauled from Rockdale by Capt. T. C. Wright and others.

Rev. Clark continued as pastor for some years, also serving as pastor of the church at Cedar Creek. He made the trip from his little log home in Birdsdale to Cedar Creek in an ox wagon drawn by two frisky young oxen, "the best looking steers in the country." He was succeeded by Rev. M. V. Smith, destined to later gain renown as editor of the Baptist Standard. Rev. Smith was known as the only

man in the country to own a seven-gallon milk cow. His salary was \$200 per year, paid in farm produce. He served Belton, Cedar Creek and Birdsdale for a time, but later gave all his time to the growing Belton congregation.

Shortly after the town of Temple was founded a cyclone blew down the Baptist church building at Birdsdale, and after a long and heated debate the church voted to move into the new town of Temple. On April 28, 1882, the Santa Fe Railroad conveyed to Capt. T. C. Wright, William Pace, John Futch and M. A. Crawford, as trustees of the church, lot 3 in block 5 of the original townsite of Temple, the consideration being the erection of a church building. This lot is the location immediately in front of and across the street from the Kyle Hotel. The church changed its name from the Birdsdale Baptist Church to the First Baptist Church of Temple.

The first building to be erected on the new location in Temple was a little one room frame building 30 feet by 60 feet in size. This building was erected by J. H. Davis from the remnant of the lumber of the Birdsdale Baptist Church, picked up after the cyclone, and such new lumber as was needed.

About the time the frame building was completed on the lot donated by the railroad, there arose some discussion among the members as to whether church

services should be held on Saturdays as well as Sundays, as had been the custom while the church was located out in the country at Birdsdale. The members residing in Temple preferred not to hold services on Saturdays while the country members were loath to discard their Saturday services. The country members finally yielded to the desires of the members living in town and thereafter services were not held on Saturdays, but on every Sunday. Thus did the church begin to take on city ways!

The church has had sixteen pastors in its 83-year history. In 1895, during the pastorate of W. R. Maxwell, the frame building gave way to a brick building which, with additions added by J. M. Dawson and C. R. Shirar, served the congregation until it was totally destroyed by fire on Sunday night, March 6, 1938.

Three months after the fire Grady W. Metcalf, the present pastor, came from the First Baptist Church of Mexia in answer to a call from this church. It has been under his ministry that the present magnificent buildings have been erected.

In addition to Dr. Grady W. Metcalf, the pastor, the church is served by the following full-time workers: Ben F. Carter, church administrator; Coleman L. Young, minister of music; Mary Dean Moore, church secretary; and Mrs. Mildred Bexley, records secretary.

POST OAK BAPTIST

One of the oldest churches in southern Bell County was the Post Oak Baptist, established in the Mountain Home community in 1871. The first building was built in 1872 from lumber brought by wagon from Bryant Station. It was moved to two and one half miles north of Holland in 1874, was dismantled in 1923 and moved one mile north. About 1940 the building burned and the congregation disbanded.

The first Post Oak pastor was Ben Beasley. Charter members are listed as T. A. Upshaw, J. F. Fancher, J. R. Wilkerson, W. M. Low, James Markham, Lucinda Pearce, Emily Fancher, M. J. Upshaw, Patinas Wilkerson, S. E. Markham, E. R. Upshaw, and Melissa Blake.

Pastors who served after Rev. Beasley include S. W. Bains, G. W. Green, M. L. Lanford, J. W. Cunningham, Bro. Cawthorn, R. W. Thompson, M. M. Wolf, W. L. Whitley, B. B. Blaylock, J. M. Joiner, W. A. Tunage, T. J. Slaughter, E. M. Mobley, Ed Thompson, J. B. Parrack, J. K. Grigg, J. A. Landers, D. A. Jones and R. E. Smith, who was serving in 1922.

The 1922 board of deacons was composed of J. P. Edwards, T. J. Archer, W. B. Buckley, J. J. Baggett, J. O. Johnson and Oscar Archer. J. P. Edwards was clerk and treasurer. The Sunday school superintendent in 1922 was J. O. Johnson.

SALADO CHURCH OF CHRIST

On March 10, 1859 a group of persons, mostly whom had been meeting with a congregation on Darrs Creek between Prairie Dell and Holland, banded together to found the Salado Church of Christ.

For about 12 years they met at Salado College. They built their first building in the early '70s. W. K. Hamblen, father of Dr. C. H. Hamblen and Mrs. Carl H. Aiken, paid for the hauling of the lumber from Houston by ox wagons. The paternal grandfather of Judge Paine L. Bush of Dallas donated the bell, and all the members pitched in to erect the building under the supervision of one of their number, a Mr. Hensley, who was a carpenter.

Charter members are listed as James, Elizabeth and Eveline Anderson, Dr. David and W. B. Armstrong; Elizabeth Chandler, Ed Clark, Elizabeth Dubose; Manda and John Dungan, Martha and Henry Ederington; Lydia Holley; Mr. Hensley;

Joseph, A. A., J. C. and Dr. C. Kendrick; Katherine and Dr. Kelley; W. L. Martin; Martha Martain; J. W., M. A., W. S., G. F., A. J. and S. N. Vickery; Marcus, Sister (?), and Susan Shelton.

W. K. Hamblen preached to the congregation for many years and it is said that he accepted money for his services but once — and immediately gave it to a widow and her children.

The old building burned in about 1908 and the present one was erected. In 1943 this building was moved almost directly across the highway to its present location. The church is now directed by J. Frank Kraner and Paul Pirtle.



POST OAK ABOUT 1900



MILLER HEIGHTS BAPTIST, BELTON

TAYLOR'S VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

By **EDNA CHAFFIN**

To preface a history of Taylor's Valley Baptist Church it is fitting to relate an interesting incident which gave origin to the name of the community and the church.

The William H. Taylor family, which was the first family to settle in this community four miles east of Belton, had built their home on the north bank of the Leon River, just opposite the mouth of Nolan Creek, in a fertile valley created by an elbow-bend of the river. The old home site is on the farm now owned by Mrs. Will Witter. The house was the usual double log cabin of the frontiersman, consisting of two rooms with an open passageway between.

On a night in November of 1836 a group of 11 Indians of the Waco tribe attacked the home. After the Taylors had killed two of the Indians and seriously wounded a third, the remaining Indians left — but not before setting fire to the house.

It happened that in addition to a little water, there was a barrel of home-made vinegar and a large quantity of buttermilk in the kitchen where the family had gathered.

Mrs. Taylor stood on a table, ripped out the roof boards between the kitchen and the burning roof of the passageway and, with the water and then the vinegar and buttermilk handed up to her by the children, she kept that part of the house from burning. Because of this incident the valley was named in memory of this brave pioneer woman.

From 1886 until 1892 the people of Taylor's Valley attended Mount Vernon Baptist Church, which was located just south of the Gene Vanderveer home

on land purchased from Mrs. Cora Griswold for \$25. The remains of its foundation may still be seen at the site, which was then known as Chalk Hill.

This church was moved to Little River in 1892, and Baptists in Taylor's Valley organized another church, known as New Mount Vernon.

They met at the school which was next to the cemetery. Among church leaders in those days were Marion Osborn, Alex Wade, J. P. Forrester, E. L. Deaver, Mrs. Cora Griswold, E. A. Mann, C. M. Rutledge and A. J. Chaffin. The building was destroyed by fire in 1896, but was immediately replaced.

In 1897 a committee composed of Misses Cora Forrester, Lesbia Wade and Sallie Chaffin chose the present name.

The congregation's first building was erected about one-half mile west of the present location in 1905. From 1912 to 1919 Baptists and Methodists both used the Taylor's Valley Church building. A union revival was held in 1918, led by Rev. Robert Perry, Baptist, and Rev. Ferguson, Methodist.

In 1935 Rev. P. L. Caperton became the first full-time pastor, a tabernacle was built in 1937, the church was remodeled in both 1938 and 1940 and a parsonage was built in 1952. The tabernacle was razed in 1955 and an educational building was erected in its place. It is a modern building with six classrooms, nursery, kitchen, restrooms and a recreation hall.

During the church year of 1955-56 Taylor's Valley entered the Texas Baptist Rural and Village Church Achievement and Recognition Program and won in the county, district and state contests and Rev. Robert L. Wimpee was named "pastor of the year" at the state convention in Corpus Christi.

Rev. Edward J. May became the pastor at Taylor's Valley in March, 1957.



CHURCH OF CHRIST, TROY

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Central Church of Christ of Temple was established in 1932. Services were held the first two years in the Trainman Hall which was located above Epperson's Barber Shop and James Jewelry on Ave. A in the first block west of the First National Bank.

About 65 members were present for the first meeting. F. L. Paisley was the first minister.

In 1934 lots were purchased at the present location (4th and Barton) and a temporary building was erected. In 1946 the present building was erected, consisting of an auditorium which will seat 375 and ten classrooms. In 1955 two large classrooms were built on the last available space on the church property.

Some of the ministers who have lived in Temple and done local evangelist work with the Central Church are: F. L. Paisley, J. D. Moss, J. Porter Wilhite, Ira Sandusky, Lynn Browning, James Fowler, J. D. Pinkerton, Max Crumley, James McNeal, Thomas Scott and Tom Ruble.

The present membership is around 300. Thomas J. Ruble is now the minister. Elders are H. W. Cobb, John Peters, Jack Lawhorn, Roy Stephens and Homer Reed.

FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST

An account by one of its charter members, Capt. R. T. Taylor of Jackson County, states that "The First Missionary Baptist Church organized in the town of Belton . . . in the latter part of the summer of 1853 by Revs. S. G. O'Bryan of Waco and David Fisher of Gay Hill, Washington County."

In addition to Capt. Taylor and his wife, Olivia J., the charter members are listed as Dr. W. D. Eastland, Mrs. Jonaphine (sic) Wilson and James Clark and his wife.

The meeting house was one of the few buildings on the north side of the creek.

This church continued in existence a little over two years. It had no regular pastor, but was supplied occasionally by Rev. S. G. O'Bryan and Rev. John Claybaugh. In addition to the preaching of these two, services were frequently conducted by Judge R. E. B. Baylor when he was holding court in Belton.

In 1856 Rev. Claybaugh began preaching once a month until the beginning of the Civil War. Other evangelists who served during this time included Z. N. Morrell, C. R. Burleson, R. H. Tolliferro and W. W. Harris.

The Belton church joined the newly formed Leon River Baptist Association after a four-day brush arbor meeting in 1858.

The years from 1871 to 1892 were characterized by steady growth, largely through the efforts of Rev. George Washington Baines Sr., and Martin Van Buren Smith.

Rev. Baines, with Dr. B. H. Carroll, was instrumental in reorganizing the Belton church in 1871 and served as pastor until 1874.

Rev. Smith became pastor in 1875. Services for some time had been held in the Methodist church building—then in a Union building shared with the Methodists and Presbyterians. During his pastorate the church built its own meeting place and pastorage on Main Street. By 1875 there was a membership of 82. The next year membership had risen to 118.

It was about this time that Rev. A. Parnell, Judge J. P. Osterhout, the Pinkertons and other families came into the church.

In the early '80's the little town of Belton, population about 2,000, raised over \$30,000 to help locate the Baylor Female College at Belton. The college faculty and students have made an important contribution to the church, while being allied with a strong local church has been of great benefit to the college.

Rev. Smith resigned in 1892 to become associated with J. B. Cranfill in the establishment of the Baptist Standard, which became a valuable part of the field of religious journalism.

Following Rev. Smith as pastor was Rev. Walter C. Lattimore. Rev. Smith's wife reorganized the W. M. U. and was to remain its president for 26 years.

In 1897 Dr. R. K. Maiden became minister and the church was enlarged.

Rev. E. G. Townsend became pastor in 1903. After about five years he resigned to give full time to his post at the college but his influence remained in the church and the town for many years.

Dean Townsend was succeeded by Revs. William B. McGarity, J. R. Nutt, B. W. Vining, W. B. Kendall, W. R. Hornburg, Layton Maddox, R. C. Campbell, A. C. Miller and J. Dale Thorn.

Rev. James Basden became pastor in 1946. The church was destroyed by fire in March, 1947—a new church plant valued at \$211,500 was occupied late in 1948. At the groundbreaking for the new plant, Dr. J. P. Boone had made the principal address and the first spadeful of earth had been turned by J. R. Fellrath, chairman of the board of deacons and John Bassel, former deacon and the first to give \$1,000 to the building fund.

The year 1956 was the date of the constituting of Southwest Baptist Chapel into a new Southern Baptist church, with Rev. LeRoy Kemp continuing to serve as its pastor.

Dr. Basden resigned as pastor in the fall of 1956 and was replaced by Rev. Charles A. Tope early in 1957. With the beginning of Rev. Tope's administration the church membership stood at 1,272 with 1,104 enrolled in Sunday School, 468 in Training Union and a good number in the mission organizations of the church. The annual church gifts totaled \$67,572.70.



ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL

St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church, one of the oldest in Central Texas, is part of the Northwest Convocation of the Diocese of Texas.

The first service for Episcopalians was held in the court house in Belton by the Rt. Rev. Alexander Gregg in 1860 and parish status was attained in 1863.

In 1874 the present church was built. At this time both church and clergy were substantially supported by churchmen in the North and East and when construction started the windows and communion vessels were thus donated. The bell, cast in Milwaukee in 1882, was the gift of the ladies of St. Luke's of St. Louis, Mo. Later, the present stone belfry was built and it seemed that all Belton contributed to it. Then a rectory was built at a cost of \$400 donated by the Womans' Auxiliary. This was replaced by the purchase of a residence on Wall St., just north of the church. In 1956 a parish house was completed and dedicated by the Rt. Rev. John E. Hines, bishop of Texas. This included remodeling the sacristy and adding four classrooms, two rest-rooms, an assembly room and an office.

The fluctuating membership of this little church (it seats 100) has reflected its continuing success as a mission. The priests in residence at St. Luke's have, at one time or another, served Christ Church at Temple, St. Mary's at Lampsas, St. Christopher's

at Killeen, Grace Church at Georgetown, St. Mary's at Gatesville and St. James at McGregor. All of these originally looking to St. Luke's for inspiration and guidance have become parishes or missions.

St. Luke's changed to mission status in 1921.

Five of its 26 priests are still in the Diocese of Texas—Rev. Wentworth A. Riemann, Rev. H. Raymond Kearby, Rev. Everette G. Smith, Rev. Irvin F. Kracke and Rev. Grant A. Herbst. Two, the Rt. Revs. Davis Sessums and Eugene C. Seaman, became bishops.

In September 1957, Al Johnson, a senior at the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest at Austin, was assigned to St. Luke's for regular Sunday Morning Prayer.

One and one-half miles west of Belton is Kinsolving Lodge with its dormitories sleeping 50, one of the finest recreational spots in Texas. Its well-stocked lake with 40 acres of wooded landscape provide outdoor sports for young and old. Owned by the Diocese of Texas it is, by geographical necessity, an adjunct of St. Luke's of Belton and plans are under way for making the most of the great natural beauty with which it has been endowed. While primarily intended for Episcopalians, it is not exclusively so and by arrangement with the resident superintendent, non-denominational hospitality has been extended.

OCKER CZECH CHURCH

In the years 1876-77 many families of Czech descent moved to the Ocker community, and with them they brought their religious heritage.

The Motl, Lesikar, Simek, Reznicek, and Hruska families were among the pioneering families. In the year 1886 these families were able to have an ordained minister of the Unity come for the first time and hold occasional services. He was Rev. Henry Juren of Wesley. In 1888 Rev. Bohuslav Lacjak was the minister. Up to now the church was not organized, but the families gathered in the Ocker and Cyclone public schools to hold their services.

On Nov. 27, 1892, the Ocker Czech-Moravian Church was organized with 30 charter families and Rev. Henry Juren as minister. These families immediately set out to construct their own place of worship, which was dedicated in 1893.

Ministers who have served the congregation at Ocker since 1893 are Revs. Henry Juren, Adolph Chlumsky, Anton Motycka, Bohumil Kubricht, Von Lanye, Josef Hegar, F. J. Kostohryz, and Albert Michalik, who is the present pastor.

Rev. Josef Barton and Rev. Gordon Hejl served as assistants.

The present building was constructed in 1930, and the fellowship building was erected in 1950.



OCKER CZECH CHURCH, 1893-1930



PRESENT OCKER CZECH CHURCH

and built a basement. The depression hit about that time and the basement never had the floor built above it as had been intended. Rev. Binford preached the first sermon in the basement. He was followed by Revs. Summerall, McCall and Lonnie Webb. The notes for the basement were finally burned in 1935.

Rev. W. M. Shamburger became pastor in 1947 and it was under his ministry that the new building was dedicated in 1949.

Presently serving as pastor is Rev. Edmund Lacy, who accepted the post in 1956.

FIRST METHODIST ROGERS

The first Methodist Church of Rogers was organized in 1880, growing out of the old Centennial Church at what is now known as Leedale north of Rogers.

The first building was erected in 1889 at the present site. This was followed with a brick building in 1909 and by extensive remodeling and the addition of a basement, memorial windows and choir loft in 1924.

At first the church was served only by a circuit rider with preaching but once a month, but Sunday school every week. P. G. Meachum was the first

FIRST BAPTIST, ROGERS

The First Baptist Church at Rogers was organized in 1890 with Rev. W. A. Barclay as its pastor. Known to be charter members were Messrs. Taylor, Jackson and Johnson.

For several years the church struggled with only half-time preaching, going to full-time services with the arrival of Rev. Griffeth in 1906.

The next pastor was Rev. W. L. Whitley, under whose leadership the church built a parsonage.

The old church burned during the ministry of Rev. Charlie Garner and the congregation secured a lot

Sunday school superintendent, serving from the time the church was organized until 1915.

The women of the church have been actively organized since 1900. Although their group has been

known by several names, its function has always been to aid the pastor in his work, to help maintain the church property and to serve the church and the community in many other ways.



TROY METHODIST CHURCH

The Troy Methodist Church is modern and progressive, enjoying the fellowship of old friends, and extending a welcome to the newcomer.

Several years before a Methodist church was built at Troy, the area was served by a circuit rider who lived at Troy and served the churches at Shiloh, Pendletonville, Oenaville, Pleasant View and Childers. Troy Methodists attended the church at Pleasant View.

In 1897 the Troy membership purchased a number of lots for building a church. The Circuit Board of Trustees was authorized to sell the Pleasant View church property and apply the proceeds to the Troy building fund. During the pastorage of Rev. George S. Clark the church was completed in 1900.

The first trustees were Dr. I. D. Ellis, C. W. Meyer and J. T. Crawford. Due to ill health Rev. Clark left the charge before completion of the church but was able to preach the dedicatory sermon later.

By mid-summer of 1901 the Troy church organized its first Woman's Society with Mrs. Laura Dickey as president and Miss Ida Finnell as secretary. Epworth League was also organized and the church began to grow rapidly.

In 1903 Troy was put into the Georgetown District and was on the Circuit with Eddy, Oenaville and Childers. However, in Feb., 1905 Pendleton and Troy were separated from the other churches and became a two-point pastorate with D. C. Ellis as resident pastor. It was not until 1947 that Troy became a full-time charge.

The church has been subject to good times and bad. In 1952 a building was purchased and moved to adjoin the church. It has been converted into additional rooms and also provides a nursery and kitchen facilities.

During Rev. J. C. McAfee's pastorate the Farrow plan was put into operation with splendid success.



MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST

In 1906 a group of members, under the leadership of Rev. D. W. Whiting, left Temple Chapel Baptist Church and organized Peaceful Rest Baptist Church. In 1908 another group left Temple Chapel (presently the Corinth Baptist) and formed New Hope Baptist.

These two new churches joined in 1909 to form the present Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

Pastors who have served include Revs. Fleming, Dudley Chappelle, J. C. Curtis, J. C. Lott, Wells, F. Lofton, Murphy and A. G. Harris.

Rev. C. S. Williamson came in 1945 and is still serving as minister.

A new church plant was completed in 1950 at 13th and W. Ave. E and there are now about 400 members.



BUSINESS MEN'S CLASS, FIRST METHODIST, TEMPLE, DATE UNKNOWN



SEATON CHURCH—Above is the celebration of the 18th anniversary of the Seaton Czech Moravian Brethren Church in 1920, five years before the present church was built. This church has had but two pastors in its long history, Rev. A. Motycka, 1903-29, and the incumbent, Rev. F.

J. Kostohryz. The first marriage performed in the church was that of Henry Heil and Miss Louise Bobovec. Plans are now under way for remodeling the church and building the educational unit, which is separate from the sanctuary building.





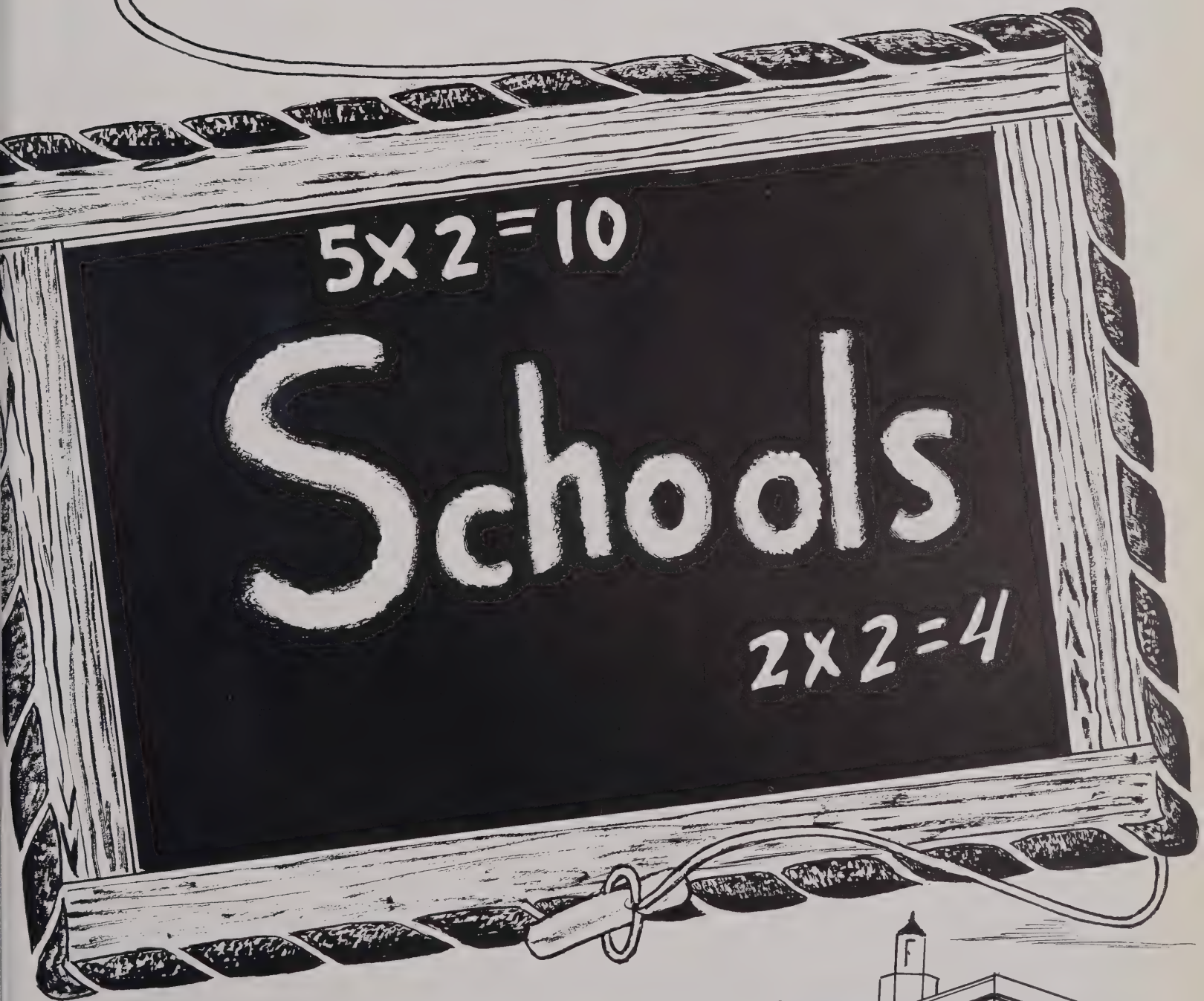
GRACE PRESBYTERIAN, TEMPLE



TROY CHRISTIAN CHURCH—Shortly after Troy was laid out in the 80s a Christian church was organized. In 1884 a building was erected on the site of the present church on land donated by Owen Carpenter. The first trustees included M. C. Elliott, Dr. D. W. Claywell and J. H. Strange. An arbor was built on the north side of the church where "big meetings" were held. In the early 20s the steeple and bell were removed, the building was turned from facing east to south, eight Sunday school rooms were added and the whole plant redecorated. There was at one time a very large membership. Some of the pastors have been Revs. W. L. Harrison, Hutchinson, Warren, Wilson, C. E. Pierce, Thurman Morgan, Nimmo Goldston, Ted McElroy, E. R. Cockrell, Dobbins, A. D. Rodgers, Addison Clark, Randolph Clark, O. C. Harper and Winfred Carter. The Clarks helped to found the forerunner of TCU. Present pastor is Rev. H. E. Crone.



MOUNT ZION TEMPLE, CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST



BELL COUNTY SCHOOLS

The earliest interest in Bell County schools was shown between 1843 and 1850. The first school in the county was established in 1846 on the banks of Salado Creek with E. N. Goode teaching.

Later in the same year, another school was established in the Childers Mill neighborhood on the Lampasas River. The school was a clapboard building erected on a bluff overlooking the mill and river. E. Lawrence Stickney taught the class and also conducted a writing school for both children and adults.

Another school was erected at Childers Mill about a year later and was taught by a Mr. Allen of Williamson County. He was employed by James K. Blair and John Bowles at a salary of \$20 per month with tuition being collected from the patrons.

In the sparsely settled parts of the county it was difficult to establish and maintain schools. In the more densely populated areas small tuition schools were conducted a few months each year. There is very little information about these early schools.

The first town school in the county was organized in Belton and was held in a log cabin on Pearl Street. Some of the early teachers in Belton were Lawrence Stickney, Thomas Lucken, Abram Richards and George Arnold. George W. Tyler in his "History of Bell County" tells us that in 1854 the county was laid off into 15 school districts to provide a school system under a law approved by Governor Pease. This law provided for the tuition of indigent children only, and very little was accomplished under this law for people resented the term "pauper schools." None the less, this was a beginning of a system of free public schools.

In 1855 and 1856 there were several small schools in operation in communities outside Belton. Bettie Wallace taught one of these early schools at Pecan Grove, later called Live Oak in the central part of the county.

At this time the teachers were poorly trained and no basis had been established for certifying teachers. In 1858 the county court was given authority to appoint a board of examiners to certify teachers. The court appointed Erasmus Walker, Eilson McFarland, and Marshall McIlherney, three Belton attorneys, to certify and examine teachers. This was a step in the right direction for qualified teachers.

In 1866 the office of the state superintendent and state board of education were created. This was evidence of the growing sentiment in favor of public education. A new constitution was formed in 1869 which made each county a single school district. The provisions of the law were so unpopular that the law was treated with indifference and very few schools were established.

Radicals came into power in 1870 and 1871 and

tried to establish schools along a military line. Jacob DeGress, a military man, was placed in charge of state school affairs. He was appointed superintendent of public instruction by Gov. F. J. Davis, and served that office from 1871 to 1874. Great dissatisfaction with this system arose at once and this regime probably did more to hinder education than to help it and in 1876 the constitution abolished the offices.

For some time an attempt was made to establish schools on a community basis embracing such population as might agree to take advantage of the benefits of the available free school fund. The county judge would appoint trustees in each of the communities for the employment of a teacher and the general overseeing of the school. There were no set boundaries and the population shifted from year to year. The legal limit of each school was one year. The looseness of such a school setup on this temporary nature soon convinced the people that there was a need for legislation and improvement. In 1884 the state legislature re-established the office of the state superintendent and abolished the community system in most counties.

Under the new law the county was divided into permanent school districts in 1884.

In each of these districts, school trustees were to be elected to assume the local management of the schools. Towns could incorporate as independent school districts and could levy a local tax of 20 cents on the \$100 of property valuation by a two-thirds vote of the property owners.

The law of 1887 established the office of the county superintendent and set a standard of professional qualifications. This standard was low, but it marked the beginning of professional supervision of the rural schools of Texas. In the same year that the state provided for a county superintendent in each county, the commissioners court of Bell County elected to that office its first professional school man, T. J. Witt. Since that time the following men have served as county superintendents: F. C. Humphries, W. C. Halbert, Forrest Smith, W. W. Higgins, H. K. Orgain, J. W. Grissom, J. S. Morgan, B. L. Stone, M. O. Grimes, A. F. Waggoner and Connally Neal.

During the tenure of these men the county rural schools have made rapid strides in educational progress.

At one time in the history of the county there were 120 school districts, one at almost every fork of the road. Some of these early schools which long since have combined with larger districts were: Birdsdale, Double File, Harmony, Hog Mountain, Ivy Gap, Cedar Knob, Mitchell, Fowler, Little Flock, Shoe-string, Old Troy, Three Forks, Taylor's Valley, Bee Rock, Verona, Farley, Thomasville, Pilot Knob, Wil-

son Valley, Mud Springs, Liberty Hill (Okay), Volo, Sulphur Springs, Fair View, Dyess Grove, Pond Creek, Lee, Owl Creek, Post Oak, Palo Alto, Punchard, Rock Church, Pendletonville, Winkler, and Richland. All of these schools were in operation in 1894 and 1895.

The law of 1919 gave the county board the authority to employ an assistant county superintendent to serve as attendance officer. The law of 1911 gave the state the authority over certification of teachers and in 1925 full control of certification of teachers was vested in the state.

In 1933 a county supervisor of rural schools was hired and as such has continued until the present. Special service teachers, higher salaries, greater teacher qualifications and higher school standards have continued upward through the years and culminated with sweeping success in the passage in 1949 of the

Gilmer-Aikin Laws.

Mechanized farming methods, people moving to the cities, better roads, smaller families and other reasons have caused a steady decline in rural school population since about 1938. Since that time many small schools have had to close their doors because of low scholastic population. These schools have been consolidated with other districts to form stronger districts with modern buildings, school buses and all modern facilities.

At present there are only six rural schools left out of the original 120. They are Seaton, Moffat, Nolanville, Oenaville, Lost Prairie and Armstrong. There are nine independent districts in the county, Academy, Bartlett, Belton, Holland, Killeen, Rogers, Salado, Temple and Troy, all well equipped and staffed with superintendent and teachers. All maintain lunchrooms and provide bus transportation.



SEATON PUBLIC SCHOOL IN 1908

SYRUP IN THE HOLE

Take one small school boy of many years ago, a pile of cold biscuits and a quantity of molasses.

Holding a biscuit firmly in the left hand, carefully take the thumb of the right hand and press a hole into the side of biscuit, working dough so as to make it stick together well. (As in doughbait used for fishing)

Now, carefully fill hole in biscuit with molasses and place it in the bottom of the lunch pail.

Continue so preparing and placing biscuits until a complete ring of them circles the inside of pail.

Pack space within this ring of biscuits with a generous

supply of sandwiches and fruit to prevent the biscuits from overturning. Replace top on pail.

Kiss Mother goodbye and start for school, pail in hand. During long walk to school, pail will be agitated with irregular vibratory motion necessary for success.

Upon arrival at school, place dinner pail in quiet place and let biscuits continue to soak up molasses until lunch time.

When Teacher gives word for lunch remove top from pail, throw away the packing and eat syrup-biscuits.

MOTHER OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The woman who is credited with being the "Mother of The First Public Schools in Texas" was a resident of Bell County, Mrs. M. T. Cox, wife of a doctor.

Dr. and Mrs. Cox came to Texas shortly after the end of the Civil War to visit her sister, Mrs. Rotan. The couple liked the new state and decided to stay.

Shortly after they were established in their new home, Mrs. Cox, mother of 12 children, found to her dismay there were no schools available for her children to attend. She undertook their education herself. Mrs. Cox soon realized that it was impossible to settle the children into a school routine in the home. A school atmosphere was needed and she asked her husband to build her a small schoolhouse in the yard of her home.

When completed the schoolhouse would accommodate more children than the Cox offspring so Mrs. Cox invited her neighbors to send their children to her and she would teach them free of charge. The neighbors were quick to accept the proposal and the number of pupils increased.

This reportedly was the first free school in Texas.

Mrs. Cox used every resource to promote interest in free education for the children in the state. Her husband, one of the first surgeons in Texas, was a member of the State Board of Medical Examiners and had the opportunity to talk to political leaders

and others — and he always promoted his wife's interest in free education.

Finally, money was made available and Mrs. Cox was asked to teach the first free school, which she did. A great-granddaughter, Mrs. Grace MacGregor Witherspoon of Temple, said she believes Mrs. Cox taught but one year on salary from the state.

"She had been teaching for several years previously and now that free schools were established by the state, she felt her work was done," Mrs. Witherspoon says.

Mrs. Witherspoon also reports that Mrs. Cox started the first circulating library in the state with books from her own library.

Mrs. Cox found that in Texas women who were her friends and neighbors had no books, magazines or reading material available. She started loaning her own books and as more and more people asked to participate the project grew. One of her former slaves who came with the couple to Texas built a small four-wheel cart (horse drawn) with bookshelves down the center. He took the cart on regular rounds in the community, lending books on a regular library basis.

"Apparently my great-grandmother's large family did not prevent her from taking an active part in the cultural growth of her community and her adopted state," Mrs. Witherspoon observes.



McDOWELL UNIVERSITY—This old photograph was copied from an original print years ago and was lent from the studio files of F. W.

Barkley of Belton. No information other than the name was available. It was apparently one of the many private schools in or around Belton.



ARMSTRONG CLASS

ARMSTRONG DISTRICT

The Armstrong School District came into being in the early part of 1914 when trustees of Elm Grove District 22 and Summers Mill District 34 met to lay plans to consolidate.

On Aug. 24, 1915, Elm Grove trustees voted the consolidation and C. I. Armstrong, one of the trustees, donated the land on which to build the school. The school was to be known as Armstrong School District 115, classified as an elementary high school with grades one through ten.

All able bodied men of the community joined in the actual construction of the building which was completed May 25, 1916. The first teachers were E. I. Cockrum and Fanny Hooser.

During the 1916-1917 school year the number of students and teachers increased. A music teacher came twice a week from Belton and her salary was paid by the parents of the students.

Two acres of land were purchased at \$15 an acre in 1939 for playground area. The lunch room program was started in 1942. Electric lights from a commercial power company were installed in 1944 and in 1951 butane gas heaters replaced the old wood burning stoves.

In 1954 the Armstrong community entered the Rural Neighborhood Program Contest and the school was renovated. An auditorium has been made from two classrooms on the second floor of the building and a community library was started.

ACADEMY SCHOOL

The present Academy School was consolidated in 1925 with the original districts being Sparks, Little River and Academy. The consolidation was the first

in the state under a special act of the legislature.

A high school was built about the same distance from the three grammar schools — Sparks, Academy and Little River — which were left in the old districts.

The first buses used were in the original Academy District. One of the vehicles was purchased by the school and another by V. C. Marshall. The children were protected by duck curtains that could be rolled up and down.

In 1940 the three grammar schools were brought to the present high school location and a new grammar school and football field were built. The school district provided the money and the WPA furnished the labor.

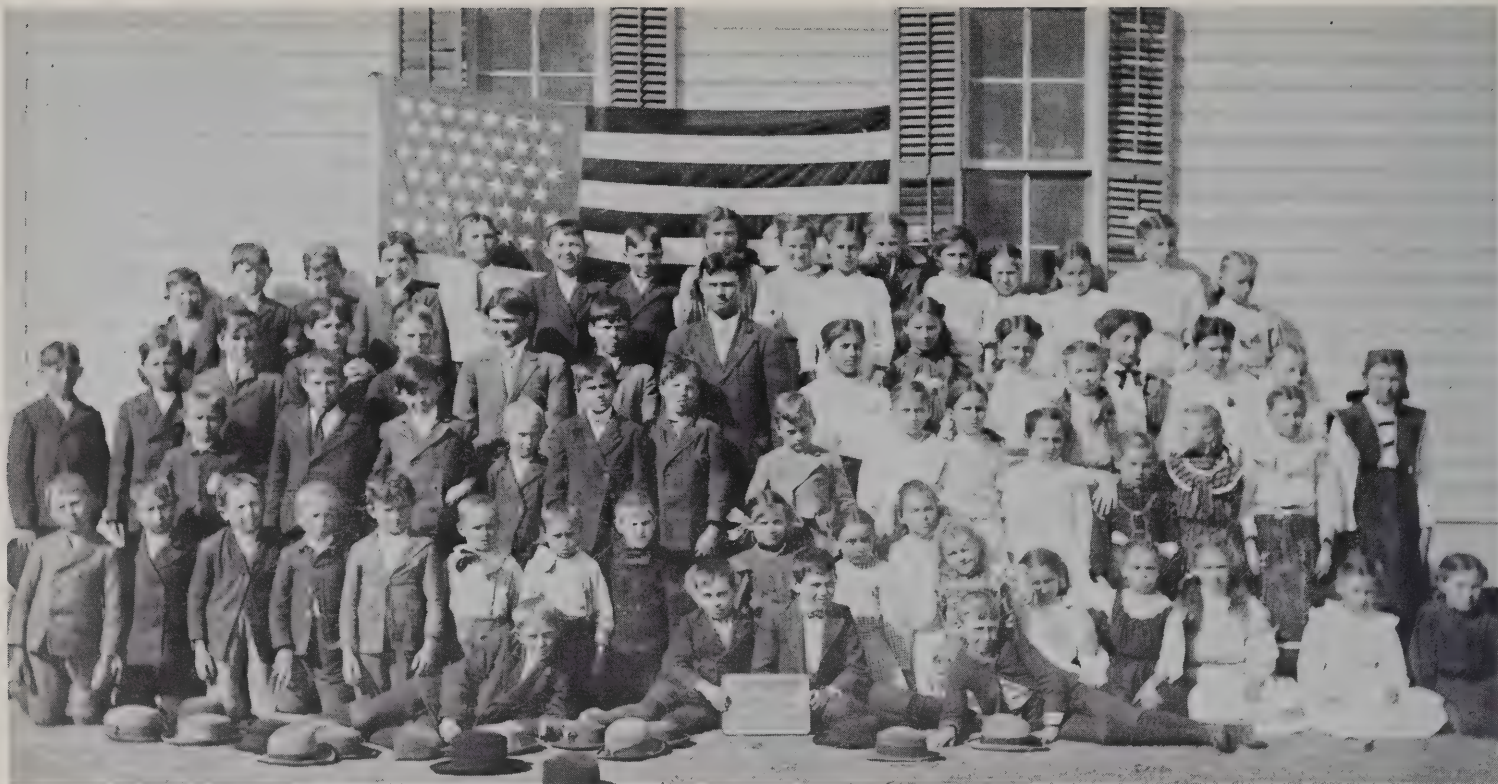
A substantial gymnasium had been built in 1934 with the WPA making a grant of \$4,900 to the school.

In May of 1955 a tornado took the top off the gym and tossed it against the vocational agriculture building which was demolished. The school decided to add four new rooms to the grammar school and build a new cafeteria and new vocational agriculture building.

Recently the football field has been undergoing a renovation and five acres of land east and south of the field were purchased to provide a lighted baseball field.

In the summer of 1954, Heidenheimer and Academy schools were consolidated and about one-fourth of the Taylor's Valley School District was added to the Academy district.

This makes a total of about 56 square miles in the Academy School District.



SEATON CLASS OF 1908 WITH TEACHER JOE LESIKAR

SEATON

Seaton school first began in 1885 near Franklin Martinec's store and was little more than a shack. Trustees at that time were Joe Lesiker, Frank Motl and Frank Bartek. Teachers were Mr. Klofanda, Mrs. Hunt and Fred Woytek.

In 1894 a one-room building was constructed on an acre of land donated by Charles Motl and the

school today occupies the site. Between 1894 and 1901, when a room was added, there were as many as 90 pupils for one teacher.

The present building was erected in 1917 and the trustees were John Hurta, Tad Cantrell, Charles Simek. The first four teachers were Miss Lillie Mike-ska, Miss Clara Mikeska and Frank Chudej.



PRESENT SEATON GRADE SCHOOL

TROY SCHOOL

In 1878, when there was no such place as Troy, five men who lived in the sparsely settled area—J. Q. Thompson, Owen S. Carpenter, J. H. Porter, J. N. Smith and William Smiley—met to organize a school.

Carpenter gave one acre of land about 100 yards south of the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Curtis and just east of where the present depot is located.

The men used their own wagons to go to Waco for building materials and returned to do the construction themselves. The new school was a one-room structure, 16 by 20 feet. In addition to being a school, it served as a church and community center.

This school was named King's Branch School District No. 29 and Miss Cornelia Robinson was employed as the first teacher. The railroad came through in 1881 and the village became Troy. The student increase necessitated hiring another teacher and the two at this time were Judge J. J. Lowry and Prof. C. L. Meyers.

Mrs. Dovie Alice Brewster taught the last classes in this building.

In 1886 citizens subscribed money enough to erect a six-room school building and the Masons used the upper floor. Seven lots of the Sanford and McGlasson addition also were purchased to enlarge the campus.

Soon after, it was decided to enlarge the district and the name was changed to Troy Independent District No. 64.

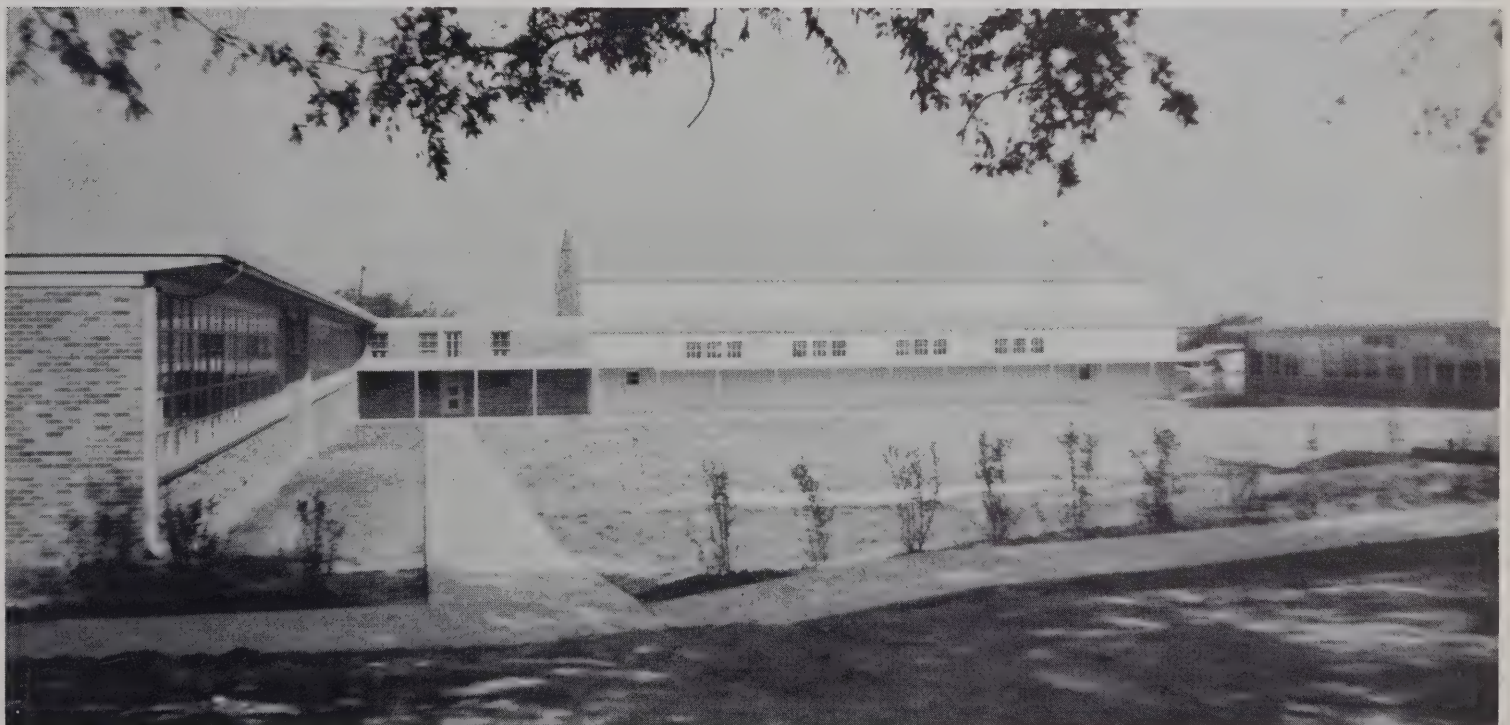
The school, by 1912, had grown to where the

building was inadequate and bonds amounting to \$20,000 were voted for a new building. The new two-story building was erected and brought the value of the school property to \$50,950.

The present brick-and-tile structure serving the school needs at Troy was built in 1954 at a cost of \$160,000. It has all modern facilities, including a library and cafeteria. The building has 15 rooms and 19 teachers are employed.



BUILT IN 1912—This two-story and basement brick building brought the value of the Troy plant up to \$50,950.



PRESENT TROY SCHOOL—This modern brick and tile structure was built in 1954 at a cost of \$160,000. There are 15 rooms and 19 teachers

are employed. Ernest Moore is the superintendent and Hollie Gee is principal. The school has all modern facilities.



HEIDENHEIMER GRADE AND HIGH SCHOOL IN THE 20s



BLAND SCHOOL, 1897—SITE NOW IN LAKE BELTON



NOLANVILLE ELEMENTARY, BUILT IN 1938

BELTON SCHOOL SYSTEM

Among the early settlers scattered far apart as they were schools were difficult to establish and maintain. But whenever they lived close enough small tuition-schools were taught for a few months each year. As Belton was the first town laid out in Bell County, it was one of the first communities to have a school.

The first school in the town, with 15 to 20 pupils, was taught in a small log cabin on the north side of Pearl Street opposite the west end of the present Second Ave.

These were "pay schools."

In 1854 Bell County was plotted into 15 school districts under the provisions of "An Act to Provide A System of Schools" approved by Governor Pease. This law provided for tuition of indigent children only and, as the old timers know, very little was accomplished under this system because the less fortunate people resented the term "pauper schools" which often was applied to those schools established under this law. The better schools were still maintained by a small tuition fee. But the foundations were being laid for a public school system.

Belton was one of the first towns in the county to develop an efficient graded primary school and a standardized high school. This standardization came shortly before 1900. About the same time, a state law was passed which allowed counties to divide themselves in districts in each of which school trustees were to be elected to manage the schools under the general supervision of the county school board. Thus, Belton became an independent school district with a board of trustees and a superintendent, the trustees being elected by voters and the superintendent selected by the board.

In a few years, Belton's schools along with other schools over the state, were granted the right to have a board of trustees separate from the county school board. In order to elect this board the school had to have a sufficient enrollment. The county board was delegated jurisdiction only over the rural schools and only in cases of transfers of students does the county board work with the independent school's trustees.

Belton at present has in its system two elementary schools and a high school.



NEW SOUTHWEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



BELTON JUNIOR HIGH

Belton Junior High School was constructed during the 1950-51 school year and occupied by the seventh and eighth grades in March, 1951.

The original building had six classrooms, a library and a science room. Two additions have been added. In 1952-53 six classrooms, a complete science lab and homemaking department were added. The ninth grade was moved into the building, making it a complete junior high school.

In 1957 six more classrooms, a library and other needed space were added, enlarging the plant to 18 classrooms, library, science lab, homemaking department and a visual aids room.

During the first year of the school the staff consisted of the principal, five full-time teachers and one part-time teacher. At present the school has a principal, 14 teachers, and shares five teachers with the high school for specialized subjects.

TARVER

The present Tarver School building in Belton replaced an old frame building which was moved down the street by Peter Hammersmith to be used as a barn.

Early teachers in the building were Brown Lee, Mrs. Horace Smith, Miss Nannie Van Ness and Hamilton Davis.

About 1909 Miss Elizabeth Meacham was the

first public school music teacher in Belton and she alternated between the schools. Miss Ruth Hatcher succeeded her. Music as a subject in all of the grades meant much to the students.

The library was started in South Side School (Tarver) when W. R. Marrs was principal. It was in the small room under the belfry. Miss Lone Kimball served as the first librarian and issued books at recess time.

The name was changed from South Side to Tarver in memory of a former principal and teacher, Mrs. A. J. Tarver.

This school building has been closed periodically through the years and the children would be sent to North Side School or Tyler as it later became known.

The school was re-opened in 1930 and Tarver building was abandoned in the summer of 1951 after the completion of the Southwest Elementary School. However, one room of the structure housed a private school for three years.

During World War II the Tarver building was used by the Belton First Christian Church as a meeting place while the church's building was leased to the USO.

Southwest Elementary, which replaced Tarver was opened in September 1951. There were six classrooms, a first aid room, a special education room, a cafetorium and offices. In 1952 six more classrooms were added, making two sections of each grade from one through six.



ABANDONED TARVER STILL AN IMPOSING LANDMARK



TEACHER CLARA MUEHLHAUSE TAUGHT 51 TARVER STUDENTS

LEON HEIGH ELEMENTARY

Leon Heights Elementary, the newest school in Belton, was opened for attendance in January 1956 with O. A. Barnes, principal.

Teachers were Miss Mary Howard, first grade; Mrs. Ruth Smith, second grade; Mrs. Velma Glass, third grade; Mrs. Ida Smith, third grade; Mrs. Marjorie Powell, fourth grade; Mrs. Joan Messer, fifth grade, and Barnes, sixth grade.

During 1956-57 Floyd Warren was principal and Mrs. Lila Warren became the sixth grade teachers.

The school is on the north side of town adjacent to the McGregor Highway.



BELTON HIGH COACH LEE CURTIS, LATER A LAWYER

THOMAS BRECKENRIDGE

HARRIS HIGH

Thomas Breckenridge Harris High School bears the name of its founder and first principal.

The first three-room frame building for the school was on the present site, but on the banks of Nolan Creek. This building was destroyed by fire as were two later ones. The last one, a six-room structure, was burned in 1935 and the following year the district erected a six-room brick building, a frame lunchroom and combination vocational agriculture and shop building.

Four rooms were added to this structure in 1950. The school, which began with a small enrollment, now has about 225 students and a teaching staff of eight.

The school offers four years of high school work, is accredited by the state department of education and affiliated with all of the colleges of Texas and several out-of-state colleges.

Principals have been Thomas Breckenridge Harris, Milton McGee, L. B. Kinchon, W. T. Smith, T. W. Wright and M. W. Evans.



ENTRANCE, HARRIS NEGRO HIGH SCHOOL



NO CLASS MEETING AFTER THIS FIRE

OLD SALADO COLLEGE

Old Salado College, whose crumbling remains stand today as monuments to its aims of enlightenment and progress, in some respects was transformed from a bustling center of learning to rubble by progress itself.

But for many years the school perched above the city on a little hill for all to respect and admire and served a need in teaching a curriculum based chiefly on mathematics, Latin and literature.

The institution never was endowed and the rise of state-supported schools and endowed denominational colleges spelled its demise.

History records that Salado College had its inception at a tent meeting at Salado Springs somewhere between 1856 and 1859, the dates vary. Col. E. S. C. Robertson is said to have donated 100 acres of land for the purpose of erecting the college and a corporation of not less than \$5,000 was formed to establish the school.

Robertson was chosen president of the first board of trustees which included Col. Herman Aiken, John S. Blair, Carroll Hendrick, A. J. Davis, W. D. Eastland and G. W. Shanklin.

At first, a small wooden structure was thrown up

and then plans drawn for a two-story stone building with one wing 40 by 20 feet and another 20 feet square. S. Bramlet & Son was awarded the first building contract for \$4,000.

The legislature approved an act incorporating the college for 20 years with full powers to maintain the school, grant diplomas and confer degrees. Pupils of all religious denominations were to be admitted.

Levi Tenny, a Presbyterian minister from Falls County, was selected as the first teacher and the institution was set for opening Feb. 20, 1859. By May of the next year there were 60 students as the school proved very popular. During the war of 1860-64 enrollment was somewhat curtailed but at the end of the conflict the enrollment rose and hit 307 in 1865.

The head of the college was called the principal and the members of the faculty were assistants. "President" referred to the head of the board of trustees. Among early members of the faculty was Capt. A. J. Harris, father of Mrs. S. S. Walker of Belton and grandfather of Walton Harris Walker who was destined to carve a great military career years later.

The college was built to its highest standard by Prof. James L. Smith and his faculty and he was responsible for the organization of the Euphradian Society in 1866. This organization was for the study of parliamentary law and to aid the young men in debate and public speaking. Another society, The Amasovourian, was formed by lady teachers in the home of Mrs. E. S. C. Robertson. The society met in the homes of members until a suitable meeting place was furnished at the college. The group started the first circulating library under the management of women for Texas, it is believed, and the literary society continued for many years.

The institution continued to thrive at varying degrees until about 1885 when the grounds and buildings were handed to the trustees of the local public school and operated as a free school until about 1890. Between 1890 and 1913 it was operated as The Thomas Arnold High School by Dr. Samuel J. Jones, under a lease from the trustees.

Stockholders in 1919 voted to donate the grounds and buildings to the public free schools of Salado and vicinity to be operated under the public free school system of the state.

The college was destroyed three times during its tenure by fire and never was rebuilt after the final blaze in 1924.

The school produced several students who rose to high places in later years. Among them two state governors, Ma and Pa Ferguson; Miss Helen Embree who was later Mrs. George Pendleton, wife of a lieutenant governor; George W. Tyler, prominent Belton attorney and author of a history on the county.

SO CLOSE, YET SO FAR

When V. C. Marshall was going to school at Salado around 1902 he was but a little more than 20 miles away from home—a home he saw but once a year, at Christmas.

Here's how he managed it then. He'd ride the mail hack from Salado to Belton. Then he'd hop a freight wagon from Belton to Temple. In Temple—ah, sheer luxury—the student would board the Santa Fe and ride to Heidenheimer. Home was then a mere five miles—by foot. No wonder this man was an early advocate of school buses!





MARY HARDIN-BAYLOR COLLEGE

Mary Hardin-Baylor College at Belton, the oldest woman's college west of the Mississippi, had its formal beginning in 1845 when Texas was a republic.

However, work on such an institution began at a meeting of Baptists in La Grange in 1841. Mexican invasions stalled the vision for a couple of years until the Texas Baptist Educational Society was formed. Rev. William M. Tryon, missionary, and R. E. B. Baylor, an attorney, were among those named to draw up a charter for the establishment of the denominational university and to seek its blessings by the republic legislature.

The charter was issued by the 9th Congress of the Republic of Texas and approved by President Anson Jones. On Feb. 1, 1845 two departments — one for boys and another for girls — were chartered.

The board for the institution took bids for location of the school and four communities responded — Austin, Huntsville, Shannon's Prairie and Independence. The latter, with a bid of \$7,925, won the nod from the board and the school was founded there.

James Huckins, another member of the board, joined with Baylor to canvass Texas for money to operate the school. It didn't all come in cash—dona-

tions of cattle, land and market products were taken. Judge Baylor made the first large donation of \$1,000.

Disputes arose over operation of the school and in 1858 the two departments were separated. The women's unit was located on a hilltop a mile away from the boys' department and Sam Houston's home was across from the new location of the female school.

By 1860 Baylor Female School had 124 students, nine instructors and was governed by a separate board of regents. Mr. and Mrs. Horace Clark conducted the school for 19 years.

The Baptist Convention of Texas, late in the century, voted to move the school to Belton which had given funds to finance erection of a stone building. Those who were unable to contribute money made grants of labor and often 50 men worked in the quarry northwest of the campus.

The cornerstone laying at the new location was held in the spring of 1886. The structure, named Luther Hall in honor of the college's first president at Belton, later was enlarged and for many years this four-story building made up the college.

The old building burned in 1929.

In 1934 the school changed its name to Mary Hardin-Baylor in honor of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Hardin whose many gifts aided in the growth of the institution.

The school has amassed a number of honors during its long service. It was the first institution in Texas, in 1920, to dedicate three new buildings at once, Burt Hall, Ruth Stribling Dormitory and Well Science Hall. It also was the first woman's college to confer the Bachelor of Journalism Degree. Instructors in the journalism department founded a Texas high school press organization.

The college has produced some illustrious students, including a governor, the mother of a governor and the wife of a governor. Mrs. Miriam Ferguson, second woman governor in the United States, Mrs. Dort Pettus Hobby, mother of a Texas governor, and Oveta Culp Hobby, wife of a former governor, all came off the Baylor campus.

Others who attended the college and later rose to prominence include Ann Luther Bagby, first American missionary to Brazil; Mrs. Mary McClellan O'Haire, first woman appointed to the University of Texas board of regents; and Fannie Breedlove Davis, founder and first president of the Texas Women's Missionary Union.

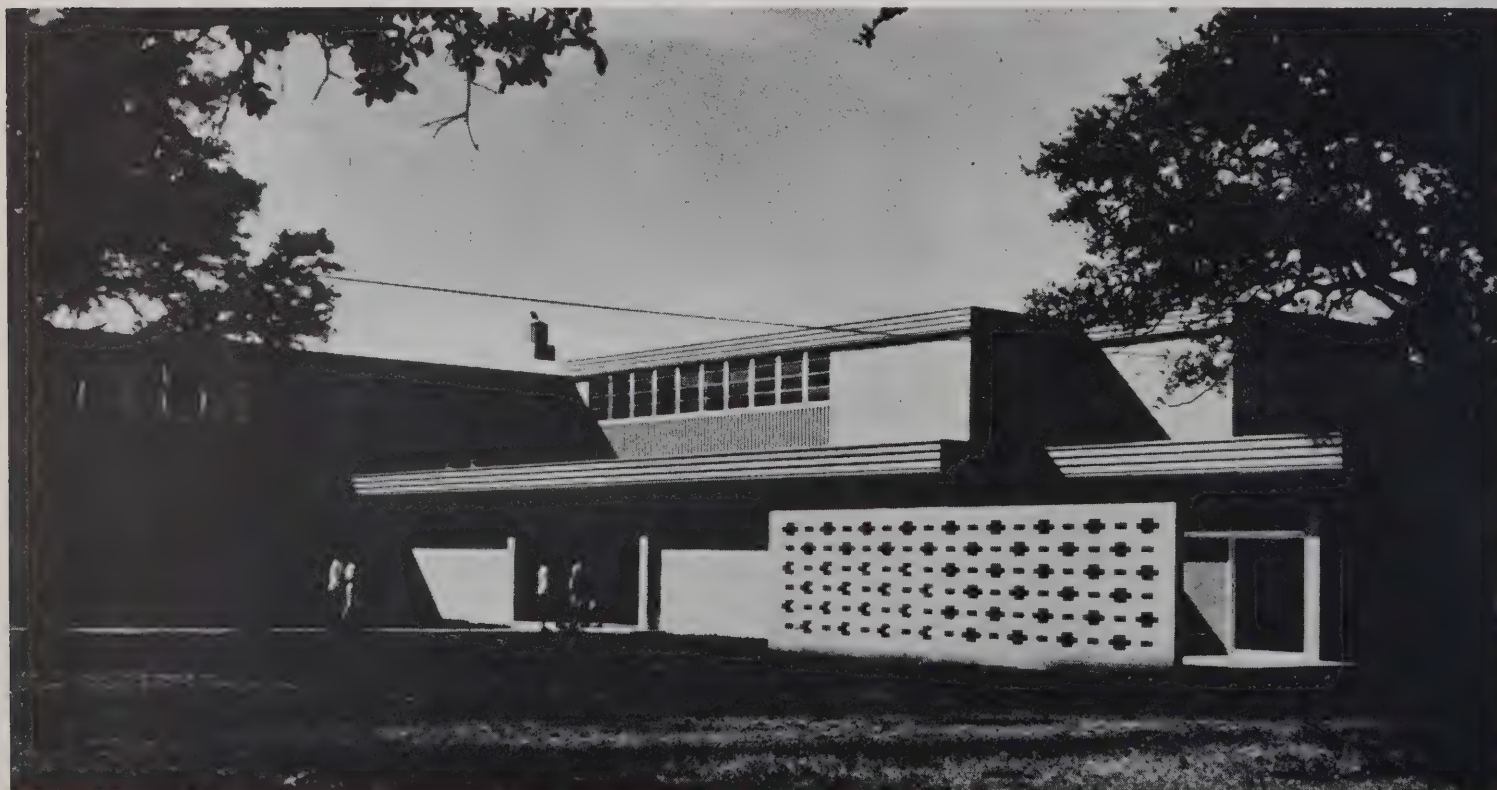
The school now has a campus of more than 70 acres on which are included three brick dormitories, teach-erages, a science hall, music conservatory, adminis-tration building, dining hall and parlors, library, recreation building, journalism building, post office and book store and radio station.



RUTH STRIBLING DORMITORY



ELY PEPPER DORMITORY



RECREATION BUILDING



KILLEEN HIGH SCHOOL



FOWLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, KILLEEN



KILLEEN SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING



BARTLETT HIGH SCHOOL BAND



HOLLAND SCHOOL—Ida Romberg took this picture about 1911. Superintendent Cook observes his dressed-up charges with a bell in his hand.



THE TEMPLE SYSTEM

Temple's first school, privately operated, was established in 1882 by Miss Jennie McConnell and Mrs. Ida Sebastian. Later the same year a second school was opened by Miss Jennie Gray. For two years after the beginning of the city there was no tax for school support, and these institutions were maintained by private subscription. Soon afterward the two private institutions consolidated, using the Presbyterian Church (at what is now First Street and Barton Avenue — southwest corner) and Miss Gray's home (on site of present First Baptist Church) for classrooms. A Mr. Lang was principal and the three women founders were teachers.

On June 13, 1883, a stock company was organized with a capital of \$2,500 for the establishment of a school to be known as Temple Academy. Construction was started and in August, J. Waggoner was selected to head the new institution.

A movement was under way, however, to start a public school system. On Sept. 24, 1883, the city voted 114 to 2 take charge of the schools, forming an independent school district. At an election Dec. 17, a special tax was voted, and on Dec. 26, 1883, the building which had just been constructed to house the Temple Academy was taken over by the city for \$4,392.25. To provide this sum, bonds

for \$7,000 bearing 7 per cent interest and maturing in 20 years was issued by the city.

The building was located on the site of the former Central Junior school (northeast corner of Main Street and Downs Avenue).

After the city had taken over the new structure in 1883 and had started the first public school, Mr. Waggoner continued as principal.

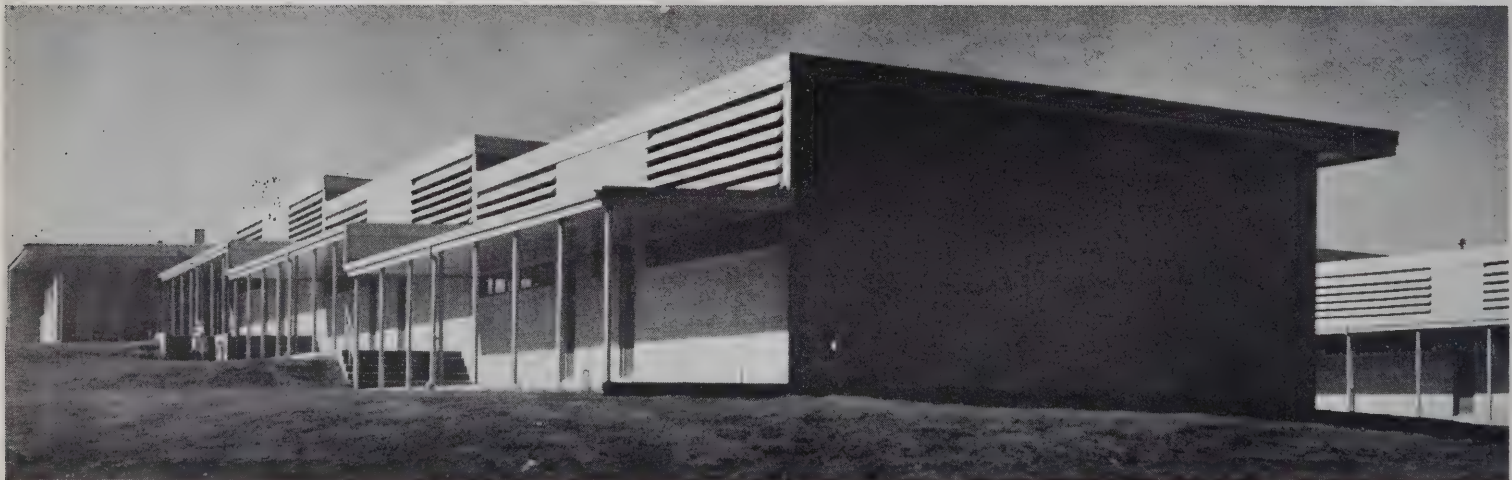
In 1889 the original frame building became too small, and a two-story wing was added. In September 1890 the Third Ward school (site of the present Reagan) was completed. Temple then had a population of 4,000. The original building with its wing had seven rooms and a capacity of 400. The Reagan structure had a capacity of 100. Records show that there was also a small school for Negroes. Ten white teachers and one Negro were employed.

In April 1889 the school received affiliation with the University of Texas, and in 1890 the first graduating class was presented diplomas. The three graduates were Alice Robbins, Kate Sloan, and Ray Wilcox. W. T. Hamner was superintendent.

In June 1892 a new building was completed (Vandiver site), and a new building was finished for the Negro school. The first Bentley Hill school, a two-room frame structure, was built in 1893.



BENTLEY HILL SCHOOL



JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

In 1894 bonds were issued for \$22,000. The new high school was erected at a cost of \$25,000 on the site of the original Temple Academy (now the Central Junior building), completed in 1895.

In 1896 additional bonds for \$5,500 were voted, supplemented by \$2,500 from the school board, to build a new six-room structure at the Reagan site. A block of ground was also purchased for the Negro school, and the old Reagan building was moved to that site. A brick building also was erected at the site of the present Vandiver.

In 1899 Temple's scholastic population was 1,390, with an assessed property valuation of \$72,000. The superintendent's salary was \$1,500, and the combined salaries of the teachers was \$13,185. The total income for school purposes was \$19,356.67.

By 1907 Lanier school had been built, and Dickson and Freeman Heights later were built.

The present high school building at First Street and Third between Downs and Elm was occupied Feb. 5, 1912. Woodson Field was purchased in 1920.

In 1926, the building erected in 1895 which had first housed the high school, then the Central Grammar school, and then had finally become Central Junior High, was remodeled. At the same time two wings were added to the present high school building and additions made to the Negro school. A cafeteria and additional rooms were added to Reagan.

Also in 1926 Temple Junior College with a faculty of five was organized on a night-class basis. In 1928 the college began operation on a day schedule and continued as such in the high school building until January 1957 when the \$240,000 building on the site of the former prisoner-of-war camp was completed.

In 1928 new buildings were erected at Vandiver and Lanier, and a \$40,000 school for Reagan Junior and Lanier.

In 1936 the high school gymnasium was constructed.—Compiled by Miss Margaret Black.

CRESTVIEW SCHOOL

Crestview School began operation as an elementary school segment in the Temple Public School System Nov. 6, 1950. Mrs. Marion C. Chancellor, a teacher in Dunbar School, became the first principal.

The name "Crestview" was first suggested in a P-TA meeting by a parent member, Mrs. Olivia Finley, because of the school's planned location in the new Crestview Addition.

The school, in the 1600 block of East Ave. J, was housed in four rooms of modern construction. Because of continued growth of pupil population the four rooms had to house five grades on half-day shifts the second year.

In December 1951 Mrs. Chancellor died and Mrs. Gertrude Polk, one of the teachers at the school, became principal.

In September 1952, half-day sessions for grades at Crestview ceased and Crestview opened its door for pupils in the first four grades. At this time, Mrs. Carlean Meriem Fowler, a teacher at Dunbar, became the third principal.

Crowded conditions again cropped up in the third grade in 1955 and made necessary the use of a temporary construction and addition of a teacher. In the summer of 1956 two classrooms were added to the four-room building and later another temporary building was added.

The school now has eight classrooms and eight teachers with 216 pupils in the six elementary grades.

VANDIVER

The first building on the Vandiver School site was a two-room frame structure erected in 1891 and known as the Temple Ward School. The only other school in Temple at that time was the high school. In 1904 a six-room building of gray stone was constructed. This building was located on the far west end of the lot.

In 1912 an annex was built just south of this structure and was used for a rest room area. In 1928, this stone building was torn down and the present structure of tan brick was built. The building houses eight classrooms and an auditorium. In 1952 a wooden annex was added at the south of the building and used for a class room, office space, and lunchroom.

The first building was known as Temple Ward School. The name was changed to Ward I in 1896 and the name was changed again in 1904 to Vandiver School in honor of Mrs. M. C. Vandiver, a pioneer educator in Bell County.

The first faculty of the school in 1891 was Miss Irene Humphries, principal, and Miss F. F. Thomas, teacher. Principals following Miss Humphries were Miss Salita Cooke, Miss Lou Lovell, W. C. Waters, Miss Mary Raspberry, Miss Kate Geisler, Miss Mittie Sapp, Miss Iva Childers, Miss Helen George, Mrs. W. R. McDaniel, Miss Mattie Punchard, Miss Cecile Pike, Mrs. Gladys Lipscomb, and Miss Mary Julia Watson.

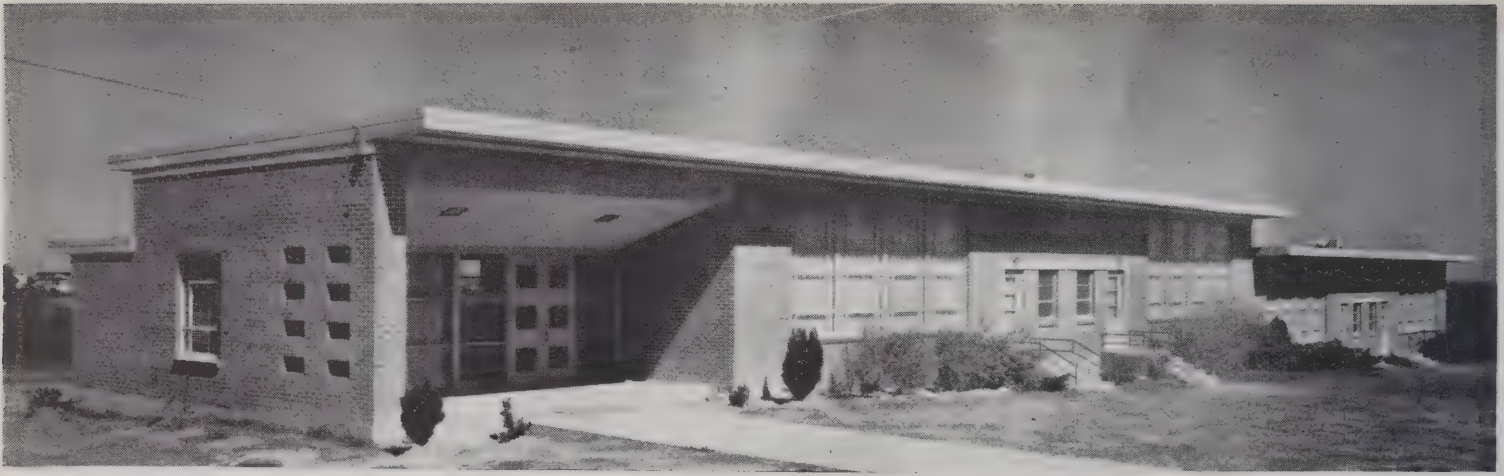
FREEMAN HEIGHTS

The present two-story brick structure housing the Freeman Heights School in Temple was built in 1915 on land donated by Freeman Moore.

The first teachers were Miss Myra Black, principal, and Miss Ruby Poindexter. In 1922 the third grade was added to the school and some six years later the fourth grade was activated. In 1940 the school included a fifth grade.

At present there are five grades and six teachers.

Others who have served as principals are Miss Josephine Strange, Miss Florence Field, Miss Fae Porter, Miss Florence Hilliard, Miss Mary Ruth Evans, Miss Mary Julia Watson and Mrs. Virginia Kramer.



EMERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

REAGAN

In September of 1890 the first building in the third ward was completed. It was a frame building with a seating capacity of 100. It was named Reagan in honor of Judge John H. Reagan. In 1896 the old building was moved off for a Negro school and a substantial six room structure was built on its present location. Additions were made to the building as the school grew. In 1928 all but the four west rooms were torn down and a \$40,000 school for Reagan Junior High was erected. That building is in use today.

R. E. L. Henry was the first principal of the school in 1890. W. B. Newby served as principal about 40 years. He was followed by Marvin Fenn. The present principal is H. C. Farrell.

For many years the first seven grades were taught at Reagan. Later the eighth grade was added. In September 1956 Reagan became entirely an elementary school, with grades one through six.

Reagan has had an active Parent-Teacher Association since its organization on Oct. 9, 1919. One of its projects was the mounting in the front of the present building of the old Reagan School bell which for so many years signaled the beginning and the ending of the school day.

From its beginning with a seating capacity of 100, Reagan School grew until its enrollment was about 800 in the school year 1955-56. With the change in the fall of 1956 from an Elementary and Junior High School to an Elementary School the enrollment decreased to 500.

EMERSON

Emerson School, originally called East Side Elementary, first held classes on a half-day scheduled from September 1950 to January 1951 in Bentley Hill School. At this time, the new building on East Ave. B was completed and classes began on a full-day schedule.

The name "Emerson" was submitted by the P-TA and the Board of Education approved the change in November 1951. The building was the second of the new structures constructed under a \$1,500,000 bond issue.

Staff of East Side Elementary for the opening year was Miss Ethel Scott, principal; Mrs. Natalie Rembert, Mrs. Ona Berry and Mrs. James Howard.

Emerson remained a four-classroom school until November 1956 at which time the new addition of eight classrooms and a cafetorium was opened.

Mrs. Ernest Fox is principal.



DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL



LAMAR AND TRAVIS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

Lamar, on the north side and Travis on the south side are two identical junior high schools which were first occupied on Nov. 26, 1956. (An architect's drawing of the buildings appears above.)

These fine new plants relieved conditions which found junior high students scattered all over town, many having to go long distances to classes.

The buildings each have 18 regular classrooms, plus these other teaching stations—art studio, band room, general science laboratory, gymnasium and showers, homemaking laboratory, industrial arts shop and library.

There are approximately 25 teachers on each staff.

LANIER SCHOOL

Prior to 1906 a red brick building was erected on the site of the present Lanier School and the building served until it was torn down in 1928 and the present building erected.

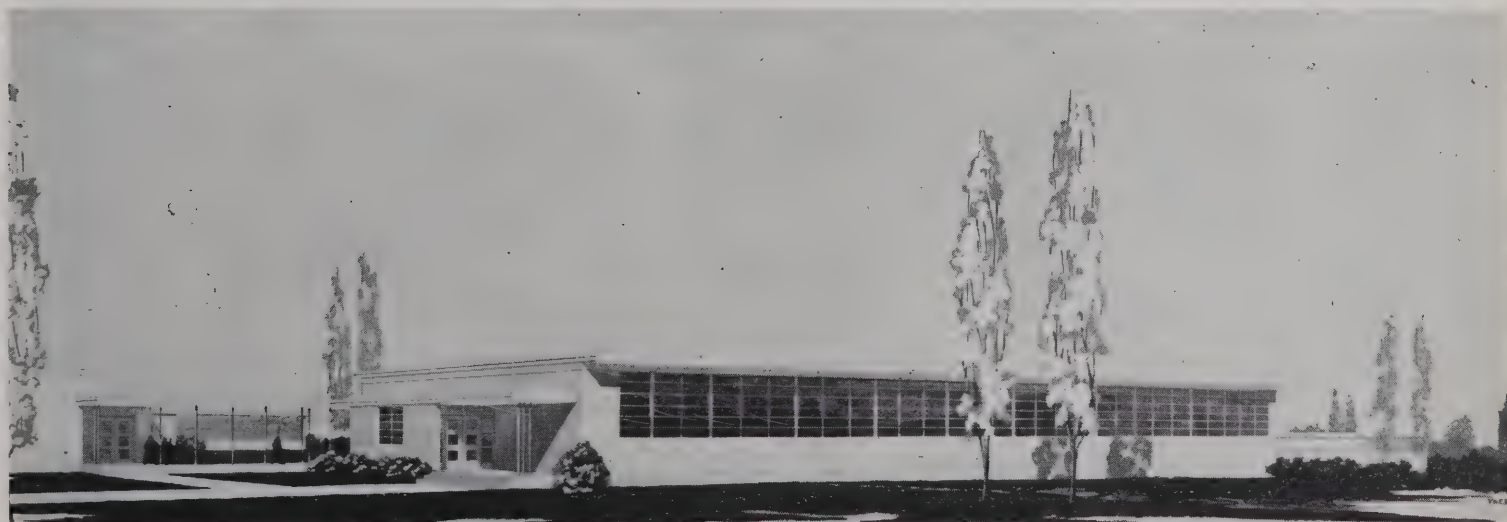
Some of the principals who have served the school are Miss Olive Barnett, Miss Eleanor Roper, Mrs. Ara Banks, Mrs. Lena B. Meeker, Miss Alma Irvin, Miss Lois Spier, Marvin Fenn and T. Thompson. Acting principals during World War II were Miss Marie Robertson and Miss Mae Moore.

DICKSON SCHOOL

In 1912 a four-room primary school was constructed in southwest Temple on a site containing a full block of land with good shade trees. The land was donated by the Temple Heights Company and the school was named Dickson School in memory of C. C. Dickson, whose home for many years was on the site.

The building was erected at a cost of \$8,000.

In 1949 the building was renovated and additions made. Six years later an outside classroom was converted into a cafeteria.



NEW ADDITIONS TO DUNBAR JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

SCOTT ELEMENTARY

Scott Elementary School, at first called Southwest Elementary School, was built in stages. The first four rooms were completed in March, 1951. There were four teachers with Mrs. Ernest Fox acting as teacher-principal. Mrs. George Fortelka was the first president of the PTA.

On Dec. 11, 1952, the name of the school was changed to Scott Elementary School in honor of Dr. A. C. Scott, Sr. During the 1953-54 school year, two more permanent rooms were completed and two teachers added to the faculty.

The following school year, 1954-55, two temporary rooms were added and the faculty again increased by two teachers. In September, 1955, while Jeff Bentley was principal, a new wing composed of eight classrooms and a cafetorium wing were opened, all of which brought the Scott physical plant up to its present size.

Today there are 16 teachers and about 500 pupils in Grades One through Five. Ace Alsop is principal.

SUPERINTENDENTS OF TEMPLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1883-1884—J. Waggoner (called principal)
 1884-1885—B. M. Howard
 1885-1886—E. I. Hall
 1886-1887—J. E. Murray
 1887—J. J. A. Patton
 1887-1888—E. P. Tarrant
 1887-1893—W. T. Hamner
 1893-1904—J. E. Blair
 1904-1906—J. F. Kimball (entered law practice)
 1906-1908—J. E. Binkley
 1908-1914—J. F. Kimball
 1914-1921—W. W. Clement
 1921-1939—L. C. Procter
 1939-1941—Dr. Joe R. Humphrey (entered armed forces)
 1941-1945—George Gentry (acting superintendent)
 1945-1951—Dr. Joe R. Humphrey
 1951-1955—S. P. Cowan
 April 1955—Newman Smith



SERIOUS TEMPLE GRADUATES OF '99



FRONT ENTRANCE, TEMPLE JUNIOR COLLEGE

TEMPLE JUNIOR COLLEGE

The establishment of Temple Junior College came about as a desire on the part of the people to meet the direct need for higher education for the youth in the city and the surrounding community. It opened its doors in September 1926 in the Temple High School building, offering courses in late afternoon and early evening. It was financed by donations through an advisory board of the Temple Chamber of Commerce, and by a tuition fee.

Since that time the college has developed in many ways. In 1928 it became a part of the Temple Public School system and the class schedule began at 8 a. m. and continued until 5 p. m. The enrollment began increasing from 82 in 1928 to a high of 352 in 1947.

On Jan. 24, 1956 the people of Temple voted a Temple Junior College district with bonds in the amount of \$300,000 to erect the present TJC plant. In addition to the \$300,000 for building purposes, a tax of 13 cents was voted for the purpose of operating the college and retiring the bonds. The student body was moved into new quarters Jan. 2, 1957 with the finest of labs and classroom facilities as well as beautiful gymnasium and splendid administrative space.

Throughout these 31 years of history of Temple Junior College, there have been three distinct services rendered. In the beginning the primary service of offering academic courses for those who planned to secure a degree was paramount. In 1928 the offering of more general courses in the field of liberal arts took its place in the college objectives. The third service of terminal and adult education was begun in January 1947. A comparison of enrollments for

the present year, 1956-57, shows that the largest increase in student enrollment is in the field of academic courses and of adult education.

Temple Junior College offers many fields of study for the high school graduate. Courses in the areas of business administration, medicine, pharmacy, teaching, law, nursing, liberal arts, engineering, commercial art, and physical education are now available on the TJC campus. The enrollment is the highest in the college history. Total enrollment for the present school year is 402. The new plant is constructed to house approximately 650 students and those near the college program feel that within three years additional facilities will be needed on the campus for the increased enrollment.

One of the strongest factors of the TJC organization is its faculty and staff. Graduates of the outstanding colleges and universities of the United States with master's degrees and in many instances advanced graduate study, the teachers not only have an excellent background but possess the ability to deal with the finer points of transition from high school to college level. The student body is composed of the finer graduates of the high schools surrounding Temple and have a wonderful field of clubs, activities, and college responsibilities to broaden their knowledge and experience with living with individuals and groups. So much has been done with so little that Temple Junior College is recognized by junior college administrators throughout the state as being one of the most outstanding of the 21 public junior colleges of Texas.

Looking Backward

NUMBER 1

A SEMI-CENTURY SHEET, ISSUED AT TEMPLE, BELL COUNTY, TEXAS.

DECEMBER 25TH, 1945

Editor & Reporter
W. GOODRICH JONES
P. O. Box 1582, Waco, Texas

Stories of the "Good Old Days" in Texas.

Circulation free—No ads.

"If these year-days look backward with a smile," — Young.

Issued under a permit of the
U. S. A.
Civilian Control Administration.

Looking backward over fifty years brings many smiles, mingled with regrets for the many dear friends, men and women, who have passed on from the scenes of their activities, with work well done. Shakespeare phrases it: "There is a Divinity that shapes our ends, rough how they come." That Divinity led me from the University and New York to Galveston, then to San Marcos, then to Temple, saying, "Here you shall find your Happy Valley, such an one as Rascasse sought." It was not a valley, but a little town, perched on a high prairie. Thither I arrived in January 1933. It was a new town, created in 1921 and now boasting of 2,900 inhabitants. It came about this way: The Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad, a Galveston institution, started building first to Houston, then north some 200 miles until it crossed the M. & T. Railroad track. Here the Santa Fe said, we will build a town and not go via Waco. We will name the town after our engineer, Mr. Temple. Mr. J. L. Moore's farm was bought, the town platted and put on record, showing wide streets and avenues. The streets were numbered and names for the avenues. Main Street should have been called Moore Avenue as Mr. Moore's farm home stood at the north end of it. When I arrived, town lots were still selling. Why did not the road go further west, some eight miles, to the County seat, Belton? Well, the town never lay between a wide stream and a main, important town. Temple, the Railroad made and crossed from the end of lots. A branch line was run to Belton and an extension west to San Angelo. The main line went north to Fort Worth and Oklahoma. Shops were built at Temple and that attracted many people. At the depot there was built a fine Harvey Hotel and eating house, where all trains stopped for meals. I lodged up town at the Central Hotel, where I spent several months.

My friend Frank M. Ball at Galveston had decided to start an eight dollar dollar bank in Temple. He asked me to be his assistant with him in this enterprise. This idea was good, I decided to take the presidency and remain in Temple and so I did. Mr. Ball said otherwise, and I received over thirty cents.

The Temple National Bank was located on the corner of Main and Avenue A. The Davis Brothers a few years previously, had come down from Waco and organized the First National Bank with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars.

My first impressions of Temple were unfavorable as not a tree was to be seen. I realized that Mr. Moore could not grow on his farm, trees along with corn and cotton. The tree idea possessed me, so I planted some large pecans in a tin can filled with sand and placed it on my hotel window sill. That was the first tree planting. Temple was full of enthusiastic men and women and we planted ambitions, hopes, big ideas and energies every day. Most of them sprouted. Banking prospects were not very favorable, as there was little idle money for deposit. Every

dollar was at work. The bank loaned money at 12 per cent, the legal rate. Newcomers wanted to borrow and buy something, lots or farms, or to go into business. The best prairie farm land sold for \$25.00 an acre. Cotton sold at from 5c to 7c a pound. When some gambler cornered the cotton market up went the price, maybe to 8c. Then the little town went wild and kept it up all night. Corn and oats sold for 25c a bushel. A good fat turkey brought 50c. Eggs sold for 10c a dozen. Yes, life was joyous and food the best, in those good old days. There was no illness, no strikes, no thieving, but too much drinking. Our bank made a specialty of loans to farmers on ten months time. This was meant to take the place of the prevailing store credit. One hundred dollars then would buy as much as a thousand dollars will buy now. The bank never lost a dollar on a farmer's loan. The wife had to sign the note with her husband, and what Ma signed Pa paid. There was no renting of land with the landlords living in town. Every farmer bought a tract of land, mostly 200 acres, on credit, and these farms were in time paid out. Mules did the farm work and helped to raise their own food. There were no tractors nor "Tin Lizzies" to multiply expenses. There were scattered farms around Temple, but mostly prairie. The farms were not fenced with barbed wire. Cattle ran at large. One could drive out of town in almost any direction without the detour of farm fences. In wet weather every wagon made its own road. The farmers often came to town on horseback, leaving their automobiles parked as vehicles for the winter. But, however, beginning in 1889 and keeping up observations for thirty years. My records show that in the early years, the rainfall often went to fifty inches per annum, whereas in later years it dropped down to some 36 inches. It must be noted also that as the prairie was being plowed up for farms, erosion



1890—President Allan Marvel of the Atchison, Topoka and Santa Fe railroad and Mr. Robinson, vice president, on visit to Temple. Mrs. Jones at gate. Capt. George E. Wilcox standing.

had been so filled up the rivers that there were serious overflows in the bottom lands, some the most valuable. The country roads were not graded and not even graded, as road work was enjoined at six cents a day per annum on each farmer, but not always observed. Our city streets were in wet weather as bad as the country roads, being so much more traveled. Our heavy horses were also treated as such animals. Here is a picture of a wagon stuck in the mud on Main Street. Near the Kottbush office a loaded wagon became stuck hopelessly in the muddy street. An old-time engineer of a Katy switch engine had a rope to the wagon, started his engine and pulled the wagon out of the muddle.

SMALLPOX. We had several smallpox scares. Any person found afflicted with the disease was taken to a miserable wooden shanty (pest house), on the outskirts of town. Vaccination and the advent of the hospitals soon brought cures to hands and bodies.

BRANCH RAILROAD. We thought to hurry up the town's growth by building a branch railroad and then trying to sell it to the Santa Fe. Sufficient funds were raised to buy the land and grade the right-of-way to Gatesville. Eventually this project was dropped and the cost charged off as loss.

PISTOL TOTTING. One remarkable feature in our little community was pistol totting. Quartets were shot out in town, even when originating in the country. The combatants generally preferred some public corner, when the street was crowded. If any one was killed a self-defense plea always secured a release. Public opinion, in time, banned this outlawry.



Plowing up Temple's streets preparatory to paving the business section.

FOOD.—Ice sold for .01c per pound and our many saloons were the best patrons. We had one or two butchers and bakery shops. Red meat was almost too tough to eat, but we had plenty of it. The local produce was good and fresh. I still remember the first time I saw a peach. There was a peach tree in the yard of the house where I lived. The peach was just coming and we were the first to see it. We were very excited and bought our needs from the "train butcher."

RECREATION.—Of course we had no movies, radios or telephones, but life was just as sweet and interesting. We danced the square dances in the parks. Baseball games were exciting. The story of a store was fitted up with a stage for the barnstormers; minstrels, plays and other entertainments. Many years later an opera house was built on the square.

RATS.—Lumber was very cheap and supplied all our house buildings and other necessities. In that black land prairie there was no rock. Such lumber we do not see today. It was fine long leaf pine, not softwood. Cow sheds were built of it. Our sidewalks were laid in boards and countless rats ran over them. We caught hundreds of these rats in traps and killed them in great numbers. When the traps were filled we assembled in the square, burning a large cauldron. We had all kinds of rat dogs, which were mostly fox terriers. Excitement ran high when the traps were opened and rat-killing began. Prizes were given to the best dog. Sometimes a rat would run away and run under our legs and then we did some high jumping.

COWS.—I never had a cow but saw many in the county. "The poor widow's cow" grazed all over town, mostly in our gardens. For this reason we used our good lumber for fortification fencing. First there was an inner fence and then one on the outside of the sidewalk if we were growing trees. The picture of my residence shows how we were protected. Most of the cows had around their necks a wooden guard to keep them from tearing down fences. All of us had cows, but they were mostly kept under fences. They were good Jerseys. We had to produce our own milk, cream and butter. Of course Ohio was not known.

FIRES. We had no soft coal or natural gas in those early years. Our houses were warmed with big stoves, wood burners. Of course this resulted in many fires and we had a fine volunteer fire department. Temple had many fires. I am touchy on the subject, because I once had a fire in my residence. Fire destroyed our "Opera house on the square," the Methodist and the Baptist churches, the Carnegie Library, our fire plant and many houses. Fire originated in the middle of the built-up block on Main Street and went down to the corner, destroying the upper story of the Temple National Bank. Fire also destroyed the Wilcox Block on Central Avenue.



Temple's muddy streets. A wagon stuck in the mud on Main Street.

Weather?

No Thanks!

THE BAD NEWS

EXTRA!

NOTHING

TEMPLE, TEXAS

"PHEW"

JAN. 28, 1932

RED HOT GRID IS READY

The boys have been heating up the gridiron for about a month, and it's hot and ready.

Told array of monkey-business, but, it comprises the second Annual Gridiron Banquet. It is being staged jointly by the Lions, Kiwanis, and Rotary clubs.

A committee from the three clubs has collected the material and even your best

friends have helped dig up credit on you. Nobody is responsible and no medals is expressed in any of the spirit dished out here tonight.

It's all in the name of fun. Have a good time, forget it, and go home and sleep because you have.

The Gridiron Dinner is a national institution founded by the newspaper correspondents of Washington, D.

C., who put on a banquet every year and gave the medals in the national capital.

The idea was presented to the luncheon club last year and accepted as a co-operative project. Many press clubs over the country have gridiron dinners every year.

Last year, the proceeds of the banquet were devoted

to installing and equipping a magazine section in the Temple library. The local Lions committee pledged the proceeds to the community fund during the drive.

Don't try to find out who got the dirt about you. It doesn't matter. Take it like a little man.

Out of the dirt that's got from the banquet tonight, so it'll find many a smother

and one. Think about that when the next time.

The grid is not over-drawn in place. But it's like the engine and you've mixed you're about in front of it. It's still still you can't get it.

"Oh, would the power the power the grid get us to see ourselves as things are and not."

Rest Rooms Popular Here; Chamber Moved To City Hall

Because of the popularity of the rest rooms and the fact that the Chamber of Commerce has been moved to the City Hall.

In answer to the demand of the times, Dr. G. H. Allen, president of the Chamber of Commerce, has decided to move the Chamber of Commerce to the City Hall.

The chamber moved to the city hall. The chamber will be open to the public and will be open to the public.

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PROSPERITY BACK--FAR BACK

Prosperity is back, according to local business leaders. There is a good time to be had here. The business is back and the money is back.

Secretary was a busy day. All morning things seem to be good and the merchants were busy. But at noon the sun came out and about 2 p. m. business fell off.

It's not business, but it's not business. It's not business, but it's not business. It's not business, but it's not business.

It's not business, but it's not business. It's not business, but it's not business. It's not business, but it's not business.

Don't worry about the money. It's not business, but it's not business. It's not business, but it's not business.

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Temple's Young Roosters Lay An Egg

After a long time, the Temple Young Roosters have laid an egg. The egg is a symbol of the future and the hope of the future.

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DOERING, RODDY AND JOHN MAY FORM ROAD COMPANY

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Sterling Eats Big Sunday Dinner; Lays Cornerstone

GRIDIRON FUN—This is part of a "newspaper" published on the occasion of the 1932 Gridiron Dinner at Temple. The event was sponsored jointly by the Lions, Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs.

ORGANIZATIONS

Ever since man came down out of the trees, out of the caves or from wherever he did come, he has tended toward organizing. The family was the first organization. With the family and the place of employment we are not concerned here, except in a concomitant manner.

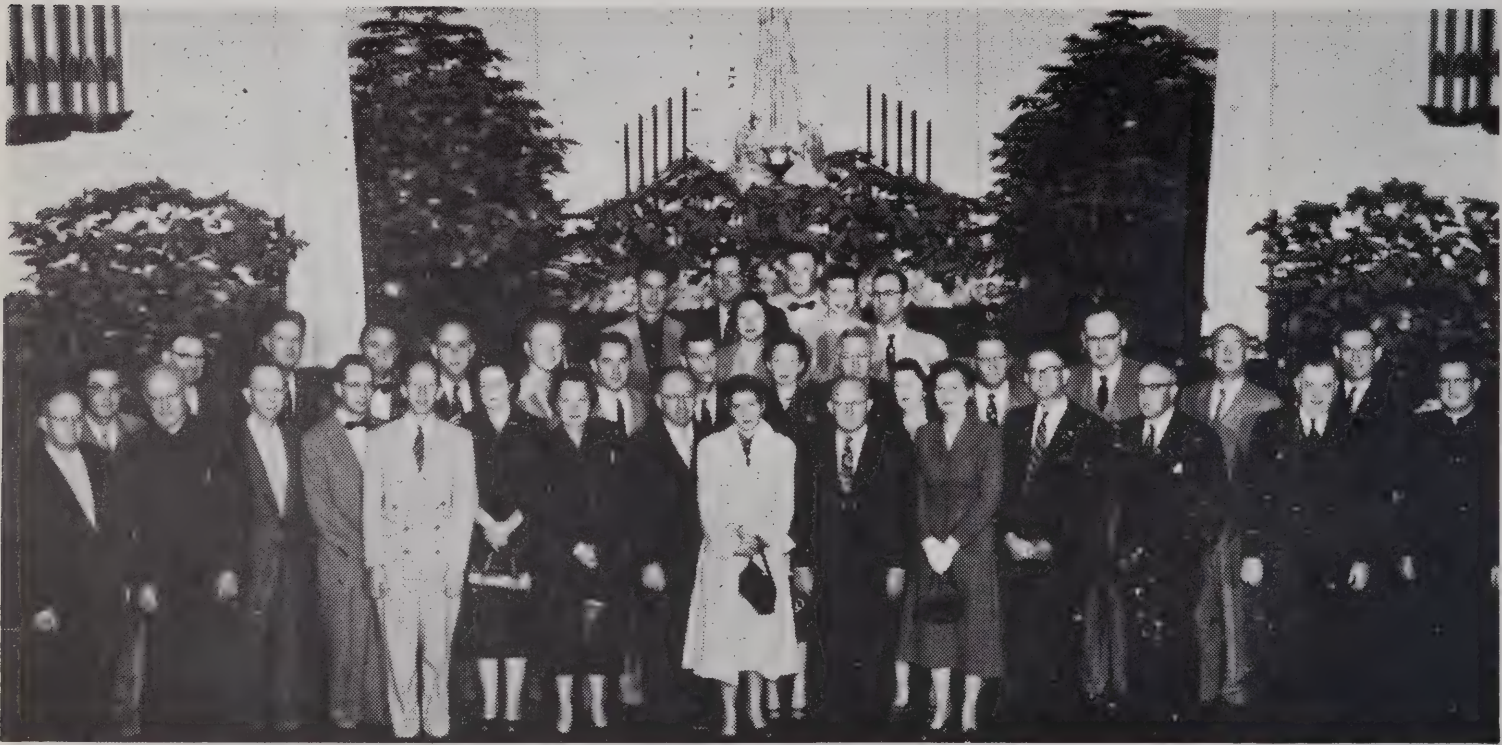
There have always been organizations, serious and frivolous, for and against practically everything on earth or in the imagination.

Bell County has been no exception to the expression of man's desire to join some sort of an organization. From the first and continuing to grow, there have been lodges, civic clubs, study and culture clubs, commercial clubs, garden clubs and all down and up the line.

This volume does not give the histories of many clubs and organizations. There are too many in Bell County to do them justice.

However, a few organizations are discussed, not to single them out for praise but to provide just a little representative insight into typical groups.

The sponsors of this book, the Temple Junior Chamber of Commerce, realize that the good done by lodges, clubs and other organizations lies in the making of records rather than in the telling of details connected with these records. Each member of each organization knows his own group and the public knows of organizations in general by observing their accomplishments.



TEMPLE ROTARY CLUB'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MEETING AT McCLOSKEY CHAPEL

THE ROTARY CLUB

The Temple Rotary Club had its beginnings in 1921 with the organizational help of the Waco and Belton clubs.

Rotary seeks to combine high business and professional ethics with worthwhile community service locally, nationally and internationally. The 22 charter members included men engaged in many types of businesses and professions. Charter members were: Rev. Mathews T. Andrews, Dr. Thelbert F. Bunkley, Dr. George V. Brindley Sr., Roy C. Campbell, Charles M. Campbell, Thomas J. Cloud, Eppner Cohen, John B. Daniel Sr., Arthur F. Decker, Daniel C. Herndon.

Fred B. Leatherbury, Dr. Wesley B. McCall, Dr. George S. McReynolds, Thomas M. Nabors, Richard H. Patterson, Leslie C. Proctor, Chandler W. Post, Walter Penn, Fred K. Stroop, Oscar L. Vaden, Darius F. Welch and Charles T. Wolverton Jr.

First officers of the Temple Rotary Club were Roy Campbell, president; John B. Daniel Sr., vice president; Tom Cloud, secretary and Fred Stroop, treasurer.

One of the first projects was a student loan fund, permanent and incorporated. Hundreds of loans have been made and the repayment record has been excellent.



GREENHOUSE DONATED TO McCLOSKEY V. A. HOSPITAL BY TEXAS ROTARIANS

Among those obtaining benefits from this fund was Henry Waskow of Belton. Henry was graduated from Temple Junior College in 1937, and in 1938 obtained a degree from Trinity University. He repaid the loan with interest just before entering military service in 1942.

Captain Waskow's heroic death on an Italian mountain top and the rescue of his body by his men is said to have inspired Ernie Pyle, who was there, to do perhaps the best story of his career and to have brought about the making of a movie, "G.I. Joe," glorifying the incident.

Rotary has helped the Boy Scouts and the YMCA; they have acted as "big brothers" to boys with problems, have donated both time and money to many worthwhile causes including the Community Chest.

During the war they helped with the USO and the National War Fund; they provided cheer for many a patient at McCloskey Hospital, and Rotarians all over the state pitched in to establish a fine greenhouse at McCloskey.

Each year the clubs within the Rotary district of which Temple is a part bring in a student from a foreign country to do a year of graduate work at a college or university within the district.

Believing in youth, they sponsor a little league baseball club and, believing that youth should be given a boost upon entering into adulthood, they have established a Rotary Girl and Rotary Boy award. Upon the recommendation of the Temple High School faculty a boy and a girl of the senior class are se-

lected each year on the bases of citizenship, leadership and scholarship. The winners are presented a ring during the graduation ceremony and their names are added to those engraved on the two silver cups that were given to the school for this purpose in 1926.



STORE AT RED RANGER, BURNED 1929

TEMPLE LIONS CLUB

Accounts vary as to the exact date of the organization of the Temple Lions Club, but it is known to have been in 1916 or 1917. One account says that E. A. Hicks was the organizer. He is not mentioned in other accounts which state that the club was organized by George M. Cunningham, H. K. Orgain and W. J. Bassett.

Charter members are listed as Dr. J. M. Woodson, B. A. Hodges, J. C. Mitchell, John A. Cole, Dr. O. F. Gober, H. P. Robinson, Jr., W. E. Willis, W. F. Lucas, Andrew McBeath, H. L. Daily, W. O. Cox, Col. P. L. Downs, Sr., H. K. Orgain, W. J. Bassett, W. W. Clements, Dr. J. M. Murphy, and W. H. Knickerbocker.

Col. Downs served as the first president and Andrew McBeath as he first secretary-treasurer, a post he filled for many years.

1917 and 1918 were bad crop years and years of anxiety due to the war. Temple was beginning to look a little neglected and frazzled, so the Lions chose as one of heir first major efforts a clean up campaign. During the war the Lions as a club and as individuals were active in every war activity in Bell County.

The club met at the Martin Hotel from the time of its birth until 1924 when it voted to move to the

Harvey House. It met there until the Doering and Kyle Hotels were erected. Although subscribing to the aims of the international Lion organization, the Temple club did not actually receive its official charter until 1924.

The club's main charitable effort has been directed toward underprivileged children — seeing that they get proper care.

Various carnivals and entertainments have provided funds for charity as well as broadening the recreational and cultural life of Temple and Bell County. One of the famous performers who has been sponsored by the Lions was Rubinoff the violinist, who gave a public concert in the Temple Municipal Auditorium, a radio program and lectured to school children on music as a career choice in 1942. The Lions received 40 per cent of the money taken in for their work.

The public library has received much help from the Lions, and there has always been time for fun and sports. Teams of ball players, bowlers and practically everything but ice hockey players have been organized with Lions and non-Lions, the young and old, as members.

The Temple Lions Club keeps busy.



LIONS AROUND 1900—As near as can be determined, here are, front row, left to right: Roy Campbell, P. L. Downs Jr., Englebrick, Roy Tenent, unknown, E. B. Lewellan, and unidentified man seated at

right. On the back row are Frank Lucas, Sam Shutt, unknown, A. B. Clements, R. D. Fields, Ralph Spann, Ray Morgan, unknown, Ed Love and O. L. Fletcher.

KIWANIS CLUB

The Kiwanis Club of Temple, was organized on Nov. 10, 1925, by Field Representative John E. Berschot. The charter was presented Dec. 1, 1925, by District Governor Julian Bobo. The Waco Kiwanis Club was sponsoring club.

Wade Taylor was the first club president along with 41 charter members.

Charter members were V. M. Longmire, W. J. Greaber, Walter Jones, Rev. W. W. Rivers, S. E. Roddy, L. T. Pruitt, Rev. B. B. Blalock, J. W. Harris, J. B. Townsend, R. R. Curtis, H. H. Stevenson, C. C. Barton, J. B. Elliott, J. W. Riley, J. G. Jenkins, W. P. Dozier, E. A. Buehring, T. M. Neal, E. E. Black, E. M. Campbell, R. Y. Echels, R. G. Squires, A. E. Blohm, Harry Firstbrook, H. C. Lunsford, L. P. Livingston, Dewitt Bowmer, Earl Casey, Wade Taylor, J. C. Baker, R. L. Sherrill, Seth Thompson, L. Samuels, J. H. Davis Jr., W. A. Messer, W. B. Roberts, Martin Watson, J. P. Charlton, J. F. Christian, I. W. Culp, and Stanley Cale.

Without losing any time the membership undertook outstanding projects in the field of underprivileged children, boys and girls work and public affairs.

The club fosters scholarships and awards to the youth of our community. In 1928 under the leadership of Dr. W. A. Chenosky, the Kiwanis Award was begun in the Temple Junior College, and goes to the

outstanding graduate each year. In 1930 under the direction of President Henry O. Hill a scholarship fund was established to Mary-Hardin-Baylor College to pay a one-year tuition fee for a needy and worthy student. This endowment now amounts to \$5,000 and was raised by the annual "Evening of Entertainment". The Kiwanis Sportsmanship award began in 1946 under president Rex Johnston. This award goes to the outstanding basketball player of Temple High School. Awards to the two high honor graduates of the rural schools of Bell County began in 1948 under President Hubert M. Dawson. Two Kiwanis Scholarships to Temple Junior College were awarded beginning in 1949 under the leadership of President Johnny Payne. The sportsmanship award to Temple Junior College and scholarship awards to the Junior High Schools was begun in 1957 under President William Matush.

Past presidents are Wade Taylor, Roy Sherrill, J. H. Davis, Jr., W. A. Chenosky, W. B. Roberts, R. Y. Echels, Grady St. Clair, Byron Skelton, Maxwell Murphy, R. L. Hicks, Charles Callaway, Kenneth Phillips, W. E. Wade, Roy Hewitt, H. O. Hill, George Gentry, Walter Fischer, J. W. Marrs, Guy Norfleet, Earl Casey, Rex Johnston, John Bauman, H. M. Dawson, Johnny Payne, Jim Bowmer, Maurice Smith, Connally Neal, Harrell Rea, Arthur Fowler, Joel Johnson, Otto Graeter, and William Matush.



HARGETT AND HALSEY DRUG STORE, 1924

TEMPLE B&PW CLUB

The Temple Business and Professional Women's Club was organized on Oct. 1, 1924, with 24 women present at a meeting which was held in the Chamber of Commerce Rooms. Mrs. Stuart Shaw was temporary chairman. The following officers were elected: Miss Daisy H. Leake, President, Miss Grace Baze, First Vice President, Miss Verna McKey, Second Vice President, Mrs. Stuart Shaw, Secretary-Treasurer.

The charter was presented on Sept. 22, 1925 to approximately 50 members, twelve of whom are still listed in the 1956-57 Year Book. The present membership is 73.

This club is federated with the State, National and International Business and Professional Women's Clubs, with headquarters in Washington, D.C., in a building owned by the Federation.

June 29, 1931, the Club won first prize in Temple's Golden Jubilee Parade.

The Temple Club entertained the State Convention in 1928 — the first convention held in the new Kyle Hotel. The Club has entertained the District Conference many times, and has furnished three district directors

Miss Daisy H. Leake, first president, was president of the state association and at the time of her death was the national second vice president.

Present officers are Miss Ruth Jackson, president; Mrs. W. B. DeBenedetti, first vice president; Mrs. Adolph Wirth, second vice president; Mrs. Edrene Wallace, recording secretary; Mrs. Eula Mae Russell, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Johnnie May Martin, treasurer; Miss Alva Thompson, parliamentarian; Mrs. L. C. Alston, immediate past president and ex-officio member of executive committee; Miss Lillian Cheney, custodian; Miss Merle White, pianist and Miss Alva Thompson and Mrs. Barnell Berry, song leaders.

Belton, Texas, *July 14th 1868*

Mr Jefferson Reed

Bought of MILLER & CHAMBERLIN,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN
STAPLE & FANCY DRY GOODS,
 Boots & Shoes, Hats, Caps and Straw Goods, Clothing,
 Drugs, Stationery, Books, &c.

W. A. MILLER, }
 D. A. CHAMBERLIN. }

May 1	2 Bils of Groceries Belton read.	\$40
April 17	Cottons	3 34
" " "	Pills 41	50
June 2	1 Car	4 25
" " "	4 Appleing (Bills) 15	60
" " "	1 per three 14	1 75
April 17	dry Cash paid by Edna for Cottons	40 75
	Currency 12 75	40 75
		1884 90 73
		1884
		71 89
July 1	Balance due Reed to date	75
	By merchandise returned	75
		72 64

OLD PAPERS—Jefferson Reed was one of the original settlers on the Little River, coming with his father Michael Reed's family in 1834. Jefferson, 16, and his brother William, 18, each received a quarter-league grant from the Robertson Colony as single men. Their father received a league and a labor. The store bill pictured here is self explanatory.

erson, 16, and his brother William, 18, each received a quarter-league grant from the Robertson Colony as single men. Their father received a league and a labor. The store bill pictured here is self explanatory.



RVOS ORGANIZERS—These men at Ocker on Feb. 22, 1901, organized the Farmers Mutual Protective Association of Texas. Front row, left to right: Joseph Wentreck, F. V. Schiller, Jan Baletka, Joe Schiller and Jan

Zabcik. Back row, left to right: J. R. Marek, Martin Stepan, J. R. Schiller and F. J. Wotkpa. RVOS are the Czech initials of the non-profit, mutual benefit lodge.

RVOS

The Farmers Mutual Protective Association of Texas, generally known by its Czech initials, RVOS, is an example of individuals joining their efforts for mutual good.

The aim of the association is to provide mutual assistance in the event of losses by fire, lightning or storm, with each member obligating himself to pay a pro-rata share of the losses of other members. Some details have been changed through the years, but RVOS remains an organization of, for, and controlled by farmers.

Local lodges approve applications for insurance, keeping the risk and cost at a minimum. In 1950 RVOS moved into its new brick home office building at 20 S. 4th St., Temple.



BEGINNING OF MORE SERVICE—Upon the occasion of its 50th anniversary, RVOS President J. H. Hurta receives the key to a new home office in Temple from Patrica Talasek as August Kacir looks on.



FIRST SOCIETY OFFICERS—This was the first group to manage the affairs of the Bell County Society for Crippled Children. From left to right are Mrs. Harry L. Weinblatt, a director; Alvin Golding, treasurer; Donald A. Starr, president; Mrs. Joe Boyd, secretary; Mrs. Claude J. Williams of Belton, a director; and Rev. Jackson Crow of Holland, a director. Officers not pictured are Fain Waggoner, first vice president,

and Mrs. J. W. Marrs, second vice president. Directors not pictured are Hudson, K. Allen; Raymond Thornton, Belton; J. S. Chervenka, Rogers; Rev. W. M. Greenwaldt; Dr. M. C. McRoberts, Killeen; D. A. Swope, Bartlett; E. G. Berry, Irvin Clary, S. P. Gowan, Stanley Kacir, Frank Mayborn, Rev. Harrell Rea, Mareen Allen Smith, Rowland Vannoy and Leon C. Bonner.

SOCIETY FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN

The Bell County Society for Crippled Children was organized in 1953 under the Texas and national societies and membership is open to anyone interested in its purpose.

The initial project of the Bell County unit was to treat children with cerebral palsy, but they have since expanded to help those with other types of physical handicaps such as muscular dystrophy, spinal injuries, blindness and deafness.

The Society is a member agency of the United Fund and receives a major part of its financial assistance from that source. However, it also conducts an annual Easter seal drive by mail.

The Center, as the Society's building is called, is the 50-year-old former home of Dr. and Mrs. G. V. Brindley Sr. at 216 W. Avenue H. It was remodeled, equipped and furnished almost entirely through contributions of money, materials and labor from business firms. Many clubs and individuals donated their time and skills. It is completely air conditioned.

The Society has provided physical, speech and occupational therapies to some 65 patients since its opening. It is under the direction of Miss Virginia Reichenback, a physical therapist. Miss Mary Storey

is the speech therapist. In one year 3,500 treatments were given. The number and type of treatments required by each child varies and equipment is often lent for home use.

The staff of volunteer workers is headed by members of the Bell County Medical Society. Many persons do what they can, such as furnishing very essential transportation or helping with secretarial work as does Mrs. Faye Poboril.

Last summer, Mrs. M. L. Brizendine, another volunteer, directed a workshop for the children, emphasizing a program devised to strengthen both muscles and minds.

Officers of the Society in 1957 were: Frank N. Walker, president; Mrs. C. E. Schmidt, vice president; Mrs. Floyd Tiggeman, secretary, and Mrs. John K. Brown, treasurer.

All persons connected with the Bell County Society for Crippled Children feel that they are more than amply rewarded for their hard work when a child learns to walk, talk or hear better. They agree with the thought expressed by the retiring president, Mrs. Dean Nichols when she said "... the greatest benefit we derive is an intangible one. It can't be explained. It can only be felt."

GIRL SCOUTING

Girl Scouting was begun in Temple in 1942 and had grown by 1957 to a program engaged in by over 600 girls and adults, white and colored. It provides practical opportunities for fun, friendship, service and all-around good living for three age groups of girls, and the adult leaders say they are benefited as much as their charges.

Camping has always been a major activity. In the summer of 1944 and 1945 two-week camping sessions were held at what was then the Variety Club camp at Belton.

Day camps have been held each summer for those girls who could not attend any other kind of camp. Day camps are usually of five days duration on a farm or other site close to home and the girls commute in busses provided by the United Fund.

In 1952 Temple Girl Scouts purchased a trailer equipped with pup tents, cooking utensils, camp gear and tools for use in the camping program. The girls helped finance the trailer with money made from cookie sales and any troop within the area may arrange to use it.

Early in 1957 a different classification was added to the regular Scout troops in Temple when 10 members of senior troop 15 became Mariner Scouts. This group chooses boats and things nautical for its main interest.

Nationally, the biggest Girl Scout camping event is the yearly National Round-Up.

Camping facilities were greatly improved early

in 1957 when 100 acres of land fronting on Lake Belton were made available to the North Central Texas Council of the Girl Scouts which includes a 10-county area. The Council bought 30 adjoining acres.

One humanitarian project of the Temple Girl Scouts through the years has been to work as movie projectionists at McCloskey Hospital. In one month 271 hours were given to this service by senior girls.

In keeping with one purpose of the organization Girl Scouts have served their community by taking active part in drives for the Heart Fund, March of Dimes, poppy sales, Red Cross, T.B. Seals, Crippled Childrens Clinic, Santa Pal Club and baby sitting on election days.

Many scrap-books have been made and delivered to children's hospital wards and sent overseas to hospitals. Kits have been assembled to be sent to the needy in other lands. One troop for a year sent magazines, embroidery material and other articles to the Training School for Girls in Gainesville. During the Salk vaccine program, the Girl Scouts assisted with the younger children.

There is a shelf at the Temple Public Library for Girl Scout reference books, instituted in 1949.

The birthday of Girl Scouting in America comes on the 12th of March. During that week each troop has some special activity commemorating the event. Troops go to church by troops and usually a father-daughter banquet is held.



DOMESTIC SCIENCE CLUB OF THE TEMPLE FEDERATION, 1958, MRS. DEWITT BOWMAN, PRESIDENT

THE CAMP FIRE GIRLS

The first Camp Fire Girl group in Temple was organized in 1912 by Mrs. E. E. Clark, but lapsed after a few years when Mrs. Clark moved to Waco and was not reactivated until 1930 when Misses Merle Holsapple and Elizabeth Elliott took over. There were 10 active groups enjoying a variety of activities including a summer camp at Valley Mills.

The Temple Council of Camp Fire Girls was organized in 1943 and now has an adult membership

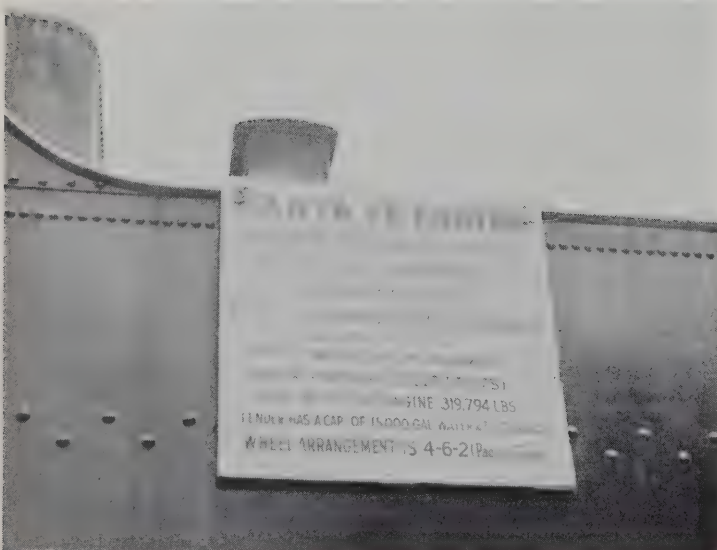
of over 100 whose aim is to "stimulate and aid in the formation of habits making for health and character."

Dr. W. W. Plasek is serving as Council president and Mrs. Joe Spata heads the Leaders Association.

Camp Fire serves three age groups, Blue Birds for girls 7 to 10, Camp Fire Girls for the intermediate age group and Horizon Club for girls of the ninth grade through high school.



MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH, ABOUT 1912—Rev. Carroll Smith was pastor at this time and the congregation was meeting in the building at Ave. G and 7th St. which was later sold to the Church of Christ.



PROUD MEMENTO OF THE PAST DONATED TO TEMPLE BY SANTA FE



McKNIGHT'S GROCERY, TEMPLE—This picture was made back in the days when butter was sold by the paddle. Pictured are R. L. McKnight, M. L. Chapman, J. R. Taylor, W. E. Littleton and George Little.



AVENUE A AND MAIN STREET, TEMPLE



AT BELFALLS BAPTIST CHURCH, 1910



OLD INTERURBAN BRIDGE—Water was high when this shot was made of the Leon on the route between Temple and Belton.

Belton and Temple Traction Co.

Principal Office: Temple, Tex.
Branch Office: Lewistown, Pa.

TEMPLE, TEXAS, Mar. 13th, 06 190

Dear Sir:-

I wish you men would get together and decide among yourselves what should be your position on the extra list so that each man will have one place on the extra list instead of two as it now stands. It may be of some help to you to have the approximate dates for which you all started to work for the company which are, Will Duke, July 10th, 05; B. C. Pirtle, Aug. 1st, 05; M. L. Easterwood, Aug. 7th, 05; B. Muehlenbruck, Aug. 11th, 05, F. B. Woodward,_____.

Yours very truly,

W. G. Haag

Supt.

FROM THE BULLETIN BOARD—Part of an old notice is reproduced here because of the information it gives about the men who operated the Belton-Temple interurban line. In the interest of legibility, the body of the notice has been re-typed. Some repetitious matter has been removed. The old letterhead and the signature have been retained. Each man was trained to work either on the front end as a motorman or on the rear as a conductor.

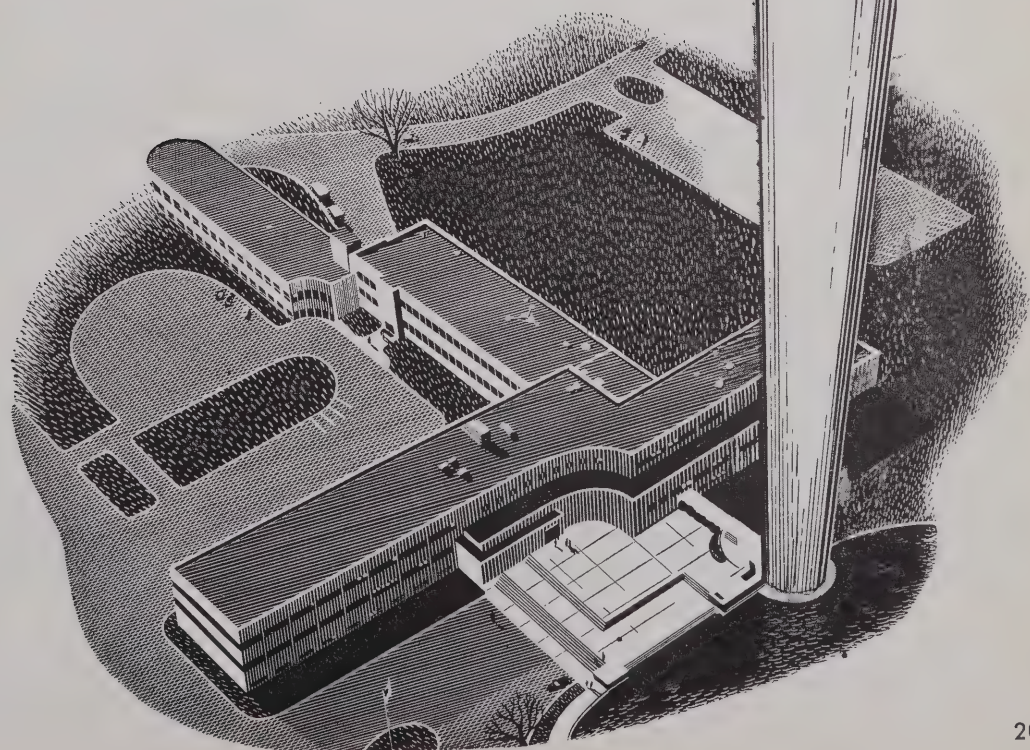


A Temple Residence.
Temple has Many Beautiful Homes.



City National Bank.

Industries

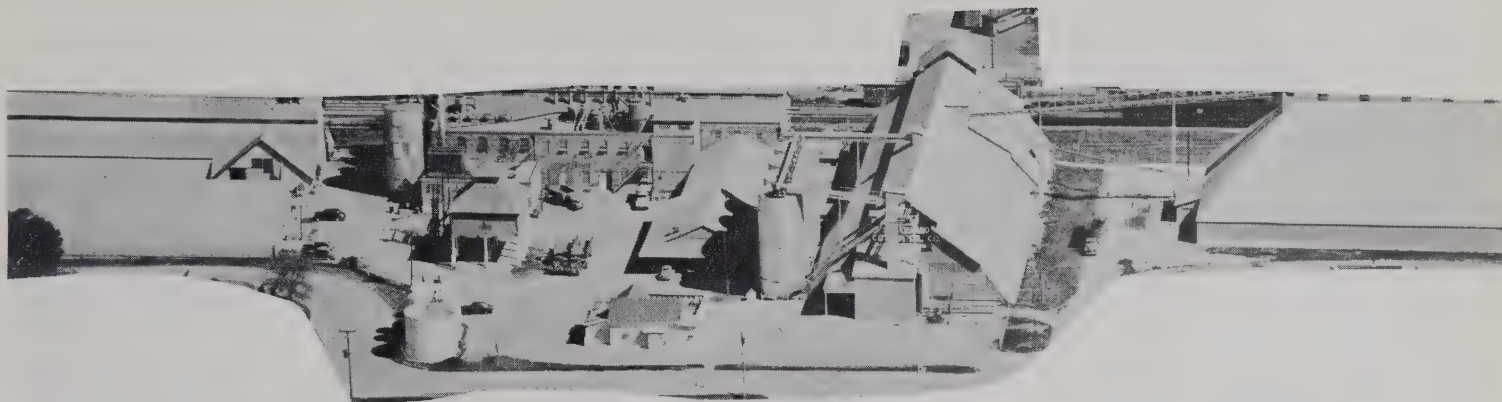




OLD INDUSTRY—The above picture was taken in 1909 of the Terrell Granite Works, located between Central Ave. and Ave. A. The little boy is the present owner, J. P. Terrell Jr. Others, left to right, are J. P. Terrell Sr., Jeff Miller and R. S. Croft.

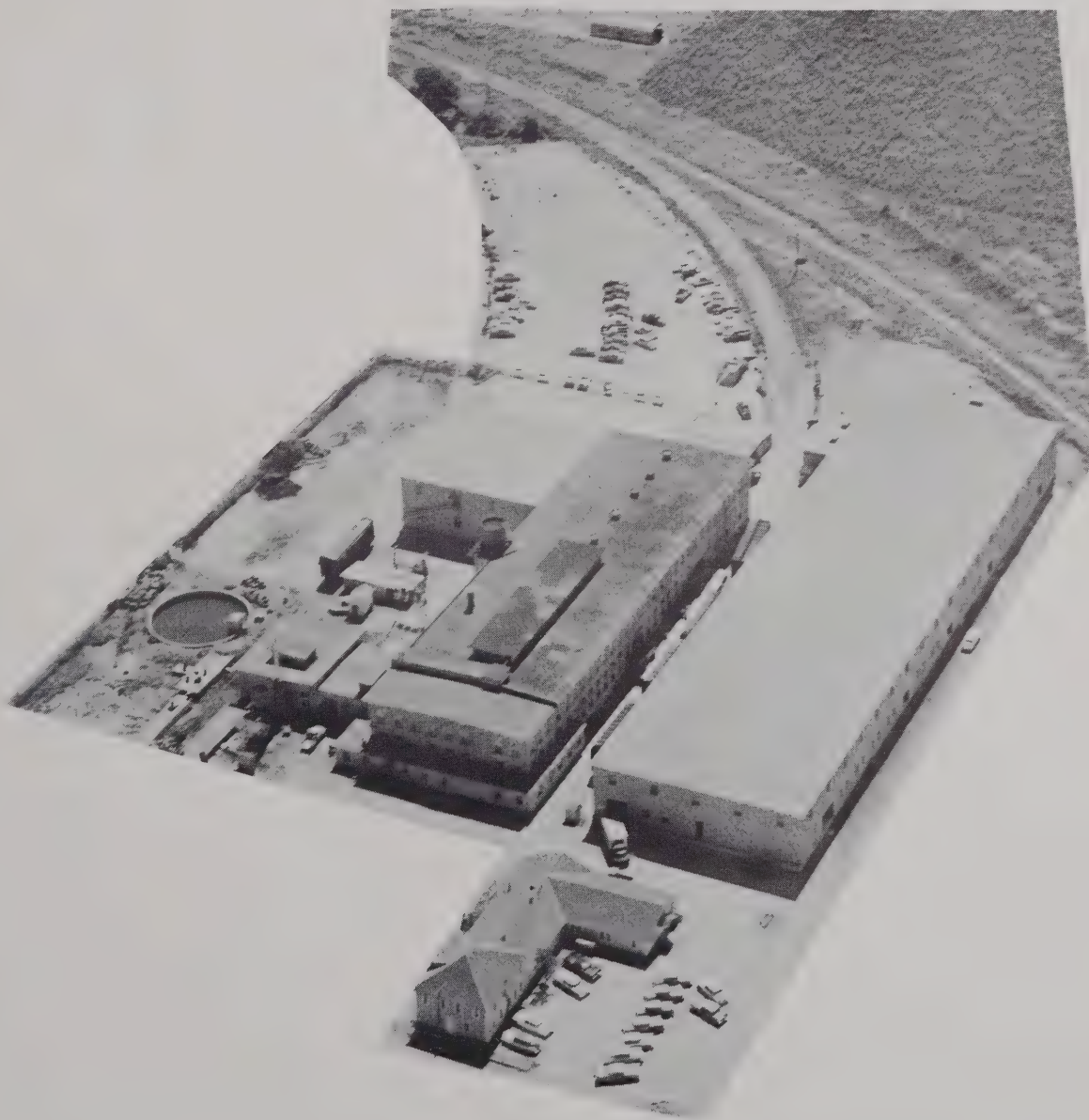


AMERICAN DESK MANUFACTURING COMPANY—This Temple firm was established in 1921 by A. P. Brashear as a distributor of Eastern-made school furniture, and began manufacturing its own furniture in 1927. By 1950 there was a working area of 83,000 square feet, 300 employees.



SOUTHLAND COTTON OIL COMPANY—This mill is thought to be the oldest industrial organization in Temple, coming here in 1886 shortly after the growth of cotton as a major money crop and the realization that cotton seed was not "waste." A cottonseed oil mill had been

established at Belton about 1879, was soon converted into a cotton warehouse. Southland ships hundreds of tons of oil, meal, linters and other products each year and is the largest user of electric power in the county.



GRIGGS EQUIPMENT COMPANY—This Belton furniture manufacturing plant is a publicly-owned corporation brought to the area in 1945 by

the Belton Industrial Board. There are 2,328 stockholders. An addition to the modern plant has recently been completed.

PHILLIPS MILLING COMPANY

One of the old water-powered mills which were once so important to the county is still grinding corn on the Salado nine miles from Belton.

It is referred to several times in this book as Summer's Mill, although it has been owned by the Phillips family since 1892 and is the present home of Phillips Milling Company.

The old mill was first built and operated by John Meyers in 1866. The surrounding area was then known as the Live Oak community. Business thrived and a cotton gin and sawmill were added. Each fall long wagon trains would haul any surplus meal and flour to Houston to exchange for store goods.

At Meyers' death the mill passed in rapid succession to Bob Meyers, Douglas McKenzie and D. C.

Summers.

Summers built a crossroads store and secured a Summers' Mill post office.

In 1888 Summers sold the mill to J. R. Holland, founder of the old town of Holland a few miles southwest of the present Holland.

J. M. Phillips became owner of the mill in 1892 and the old wood and limestone dam was replaced by a concrete one in 1900.

A flood in 1921 washed away the building and operations were suspended until 1932 when Phillips

astounded everyone by completely rebuilding and remodeling the mill and starting back in business. What with the low prices of the depression many persons predicted that he would go bankrupt.

Fittingly, the man who started the machinery in 1932 was 84-year-old John A. Wallace, who had watched a workman turn the water through the millrace and grind the first corn back in 1866.

This mill has never used the old tall water wheel so often painted by artists, but a water turbine.

It is said that at one time there were nine water-powered mills operating on the Salado and others on the other streams. Farmers would travel many miles to reach these mills. They would camp out, fish, hunt, visit and perhaps attend a square dance while waiting their turn.

The present Phillips Mill can produce 15,000 pounds of cornmeal in 12 hours with its 40-horsepower turbine. Most of this is consumed in Bell and surrounding counties, for Central Texans still love their cornbread. Tourists, too, are attracted by the thought of eating "genuine water-ground meal with the heart and germ of the corn ground right into it" and one dealer in Belton sells more than one half of his meal to tourists. Occasionally, a meal order will come in on which the postage costs more than does the meal.





TEXAS ROCKWOOL CORPORATION, BELTON



OLD TEX ROCK PLANT, NOW BALDWIN HILL, TEMPLE



TEMCO FEED MILLS



OLD ANDERSON ICE CREAM PLANT, NOW OAK FARM DAIRIES



DR. PEPPER PLANT

CEN -TEX BEVERAGE COMPANY

Cen - Tex Beverage Company sends from its plant at 206 S Main in Temple more than 240,000 bottles of "soda pop" each year and the drinks include all flavors of the Chuck-Ker line plus Hires Root Beer, B-1 and Delaware Punch.

The business currently is operated by Mrs. E. R. Schroeder who took over after the death of her husband in 1955. The Schroeders got their start in the business in Temple in 1939, but Schroeder had been in the soft drink business for years before that time. The Schroeders purchased the plant from W. F. Blum and from the start, the Cen-Tex Beverage Company grew.

Cen-Tex distribution blankets Bell County and goes into adjoining counties. The sales territory is limited by franchises held by the company which set up specific sales territories and also by the fact that delivery costs eat more and more into profits as the area covered is extended.



HOOVER BROS. COMPANY

WENDLAND GRAIN COMPANY

In February of 1958 the Wendland Grain Company of Temple added to its facilities two new steel and concrete buildings for the aerated storage of grain. They are 341 feet long, 70 feet wide and have side-walls 20 feet tall. An especially valued feature is the speed with which either railroad cars or motor trucks may be unloaded and the grain stored by giant, screw-type conveyors — all under the control of one man in a room filled with electrical switches.

This is the latest addition to a home-grown Bell County firm which has been operated by the same family since the day in 1896 when H. Wendland opened a small hardware store and tin shop at Killeen.

Wendland soon expanded his business to include the buying of chickens and eggs.

He rendered a valuable service to the farmers because he paid them in cash for their produce at a time when most other merchant-buyers made them take their pay out in trade.

After the death of H. Wendland in 1914 the business was taken over by his children, W. W., R. E., Sadie and Cloetide. It is now managed by W. W. and R. E. Wendland. Miss Cloetide Wendland is still

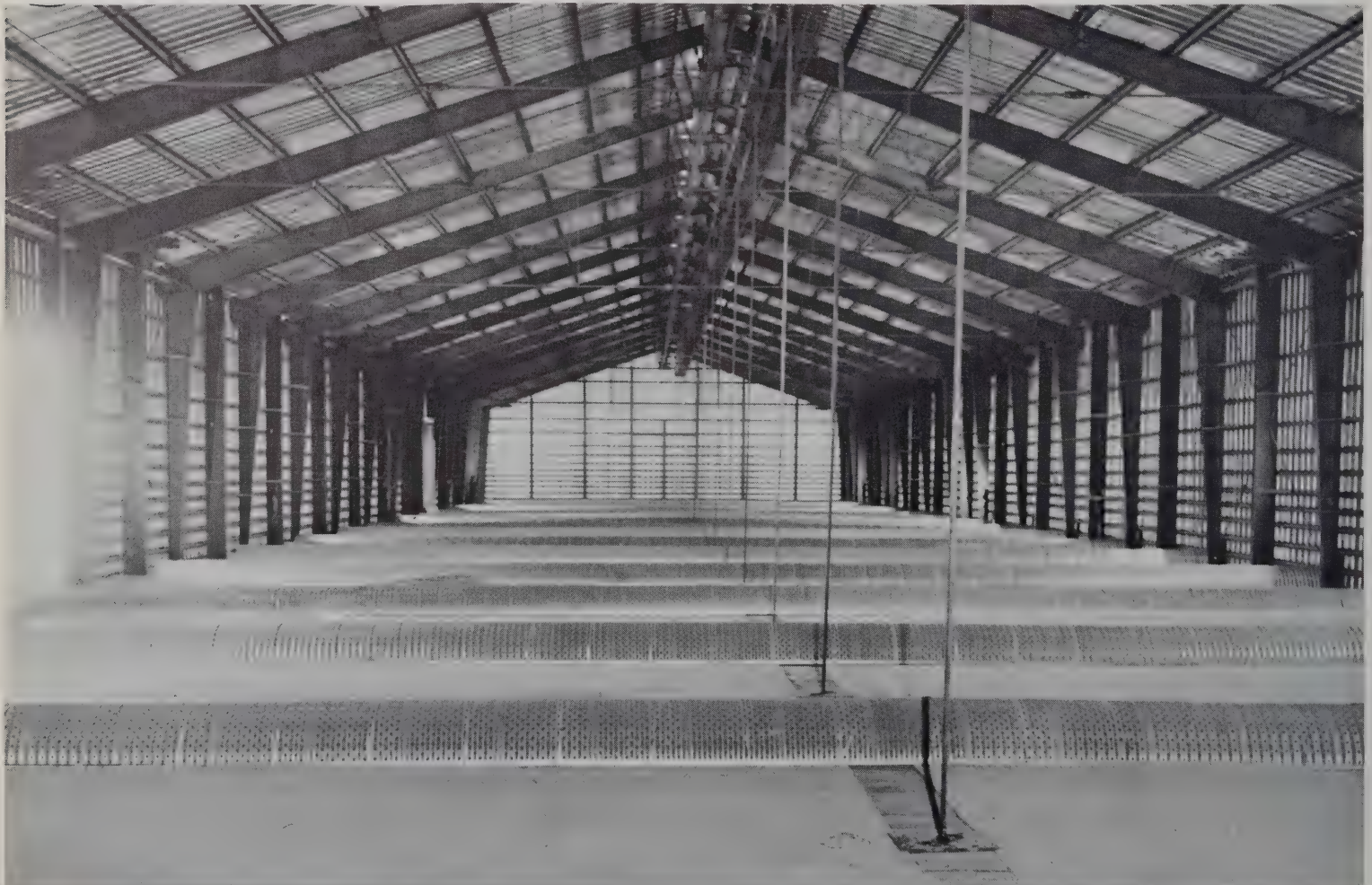
a partner in the firm but devotes most of her time to her gift shop in the original Wendland store building at Killeen. Sadie Wendland is deceased.

The Wendlands entered the grain buying business in 1921, and in 1926 they acquired their first elevator and corn sheller, an old picture of which they treasure highly even though it was just a small wooden shed.

In 1928 they bought the Childress Grain Company at Temple and R. E. (Bob) Wendland was made its manager. W. W. (Bill) Wendland joined his brother at Temple in 1936.

For a number of years Wendland Grain Company has manufactured and marketed its own brands of feeds and seed in addition to its function of buying, storing and selling grain. Bob Wendland is currently on the board of directors of the Grain and Feed Dealers National Association and is a past director of the American Feed Manufacturers Association. He is a past president of both the Texas Grain and Feed Dealers Association and the Texas Feed Manufacturers Association.

Bill Wendland has been active in seed organizations and a leader in local and state American Legion affairs.



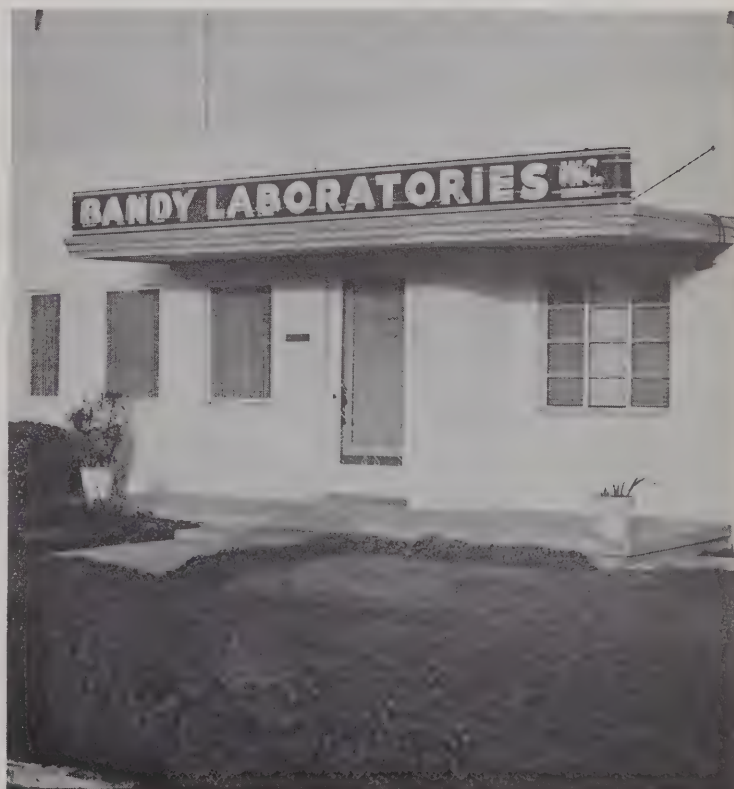
PART OF WENDLAND'S NEW STORAGE FACILITIES



B. H. C. MANUFACTURING COMPANY



HOWSE CANDY COMPANY



BANDY LABORATORIES



TREE IN FRONT OF T.P.&L. OFFICE COMES IN HANDY AT CHRISTMAS TIME



ASPHALT PLANT



MODERN LAMPTENDER



NEWTON MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Newton Manufacturing Company on General Bruce Drive is an example of an industry which grew out of an entirely different operation. Originally, Herman S. Newton built a "lean to" building on the garage at his home to build furniture as a hobby. The hobby grew into Newton's Custom Built Furniture Studio.

The need for a machine which would drill dowel holes accurately arose and in time that problem was solved. The line of equipment originally consisted of one boring machine designed and developed in 1941 but over a period of time has been increased to four different models and four sanding machine models along with accessory items.

Newton continued to make furniture until 1945 when he launched Newton Manufacturing Company. His first plant was located at Bartlett and then moved to the 1000 block of E. Adams in Temple. In 1947 Newton moved to the present location in a building with about 6,500 square feet of floor space. In 1955 the size of the building was doubled.

In the same year, The Neroc Company came into existence as a subsidiary of Newton Manufacturing Company. It is operated in the same building under the same management and manufactures the Newfold Folding Tables used for cafeterias and libraries. It also produces Rolite Trucks for storage of folding tables and chairs.

After Newton's death in 1956 his wife, Theresa W. Newton, took over operation of the facilities.

The products are distributed to more than 200 dealers including some in foreign countries.

MONTEITH ABSTRACT COMPANY

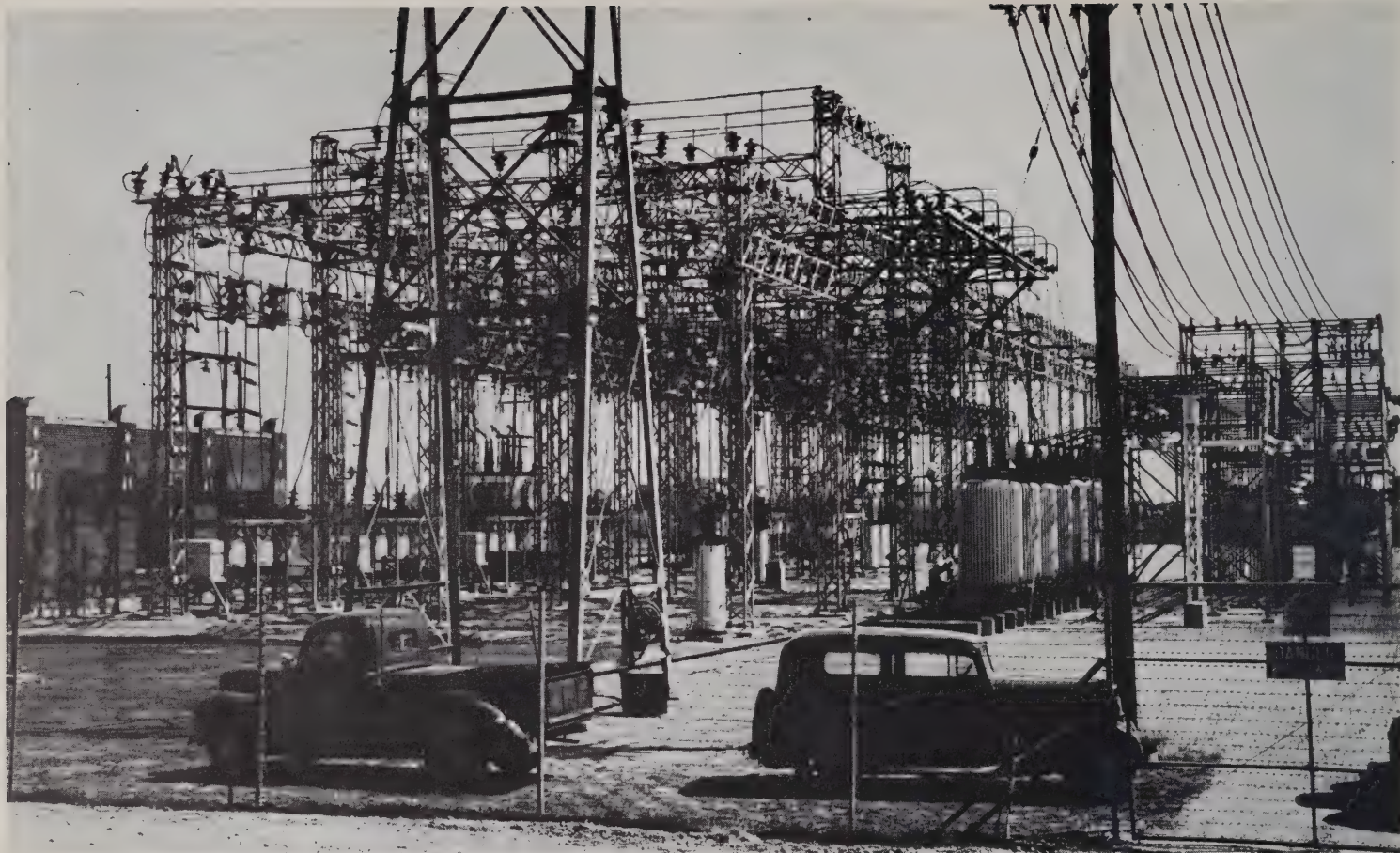
The Monteith Abstract Company, across from the courthouse in Belton, was founded in 1876 by A. M. Monteith, an attorney.

With the exception of a few years, the firm has operated under the same name. During those years the firm was known as Monteith & Hall.

In 1935 the Monteith family sold the firm to a member of the family, A. L. Monteith, and the ownership remained in the family until June 1951 when Mrs. Mary Monteith, widow of A. L. Monteith, sold it to Frank J. Turner and Rex Corley, present operators.

Through its more than 80 years of continuous service the firm has compiled a complete abstract plant covering all titles to land and town properties in Bell County and given complete service to abstract, title insurance and land map needs of the county.

The firm is the builder and owner of the land survey map of Bell County, agent for Stewart Title Guaranty Company, Commercial Standard Insurance Company and Dallas Title and Guaranty Company.



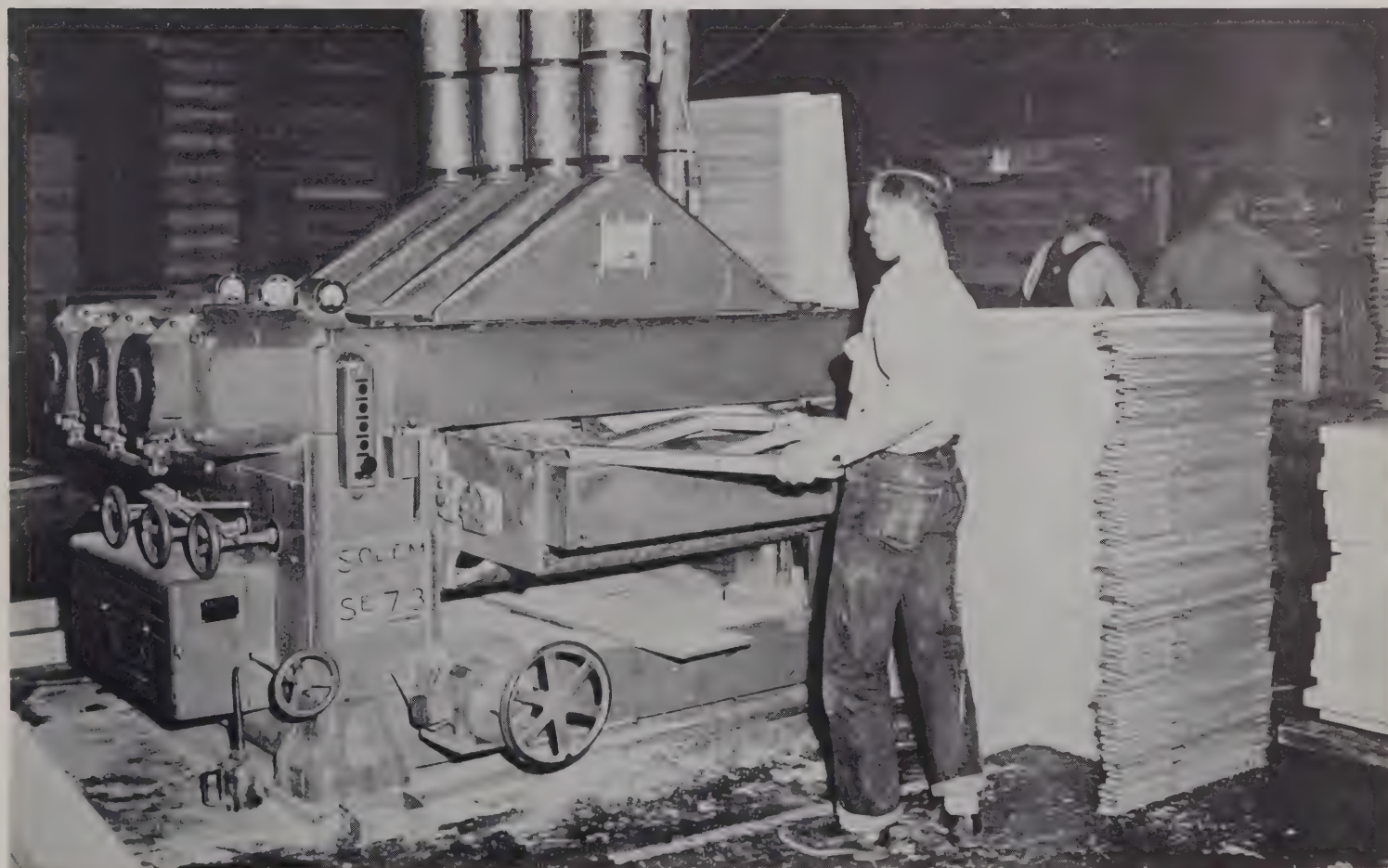
SUB-STATION OF TEXAS POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY



LONE STAR GAS COMPANY MEASURING STATION



LAWHORN FEED AND SEED COMPANY—HEIDENHEIMER



CHUPEK WOOD MANUFACTURING COMPANY

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THANK YOU

This book contains no detailed bibliography because most of the vast store of information and pictures used were contributed directly by members of the community or by other persons having a knowledge, records or pictures pertaining to the history of Bell County.

A great portion of the material is of the type that is not obtainable in general history books. Histories of churches, schools and similar organizations are often haphazardly preserved in the memories of scattered individuals. While not complete, it is hoped that this book will help crystallize some of this information before it is forgotten.

In the relatively small portion of the book where published materials were used in research, credit is given in the text.

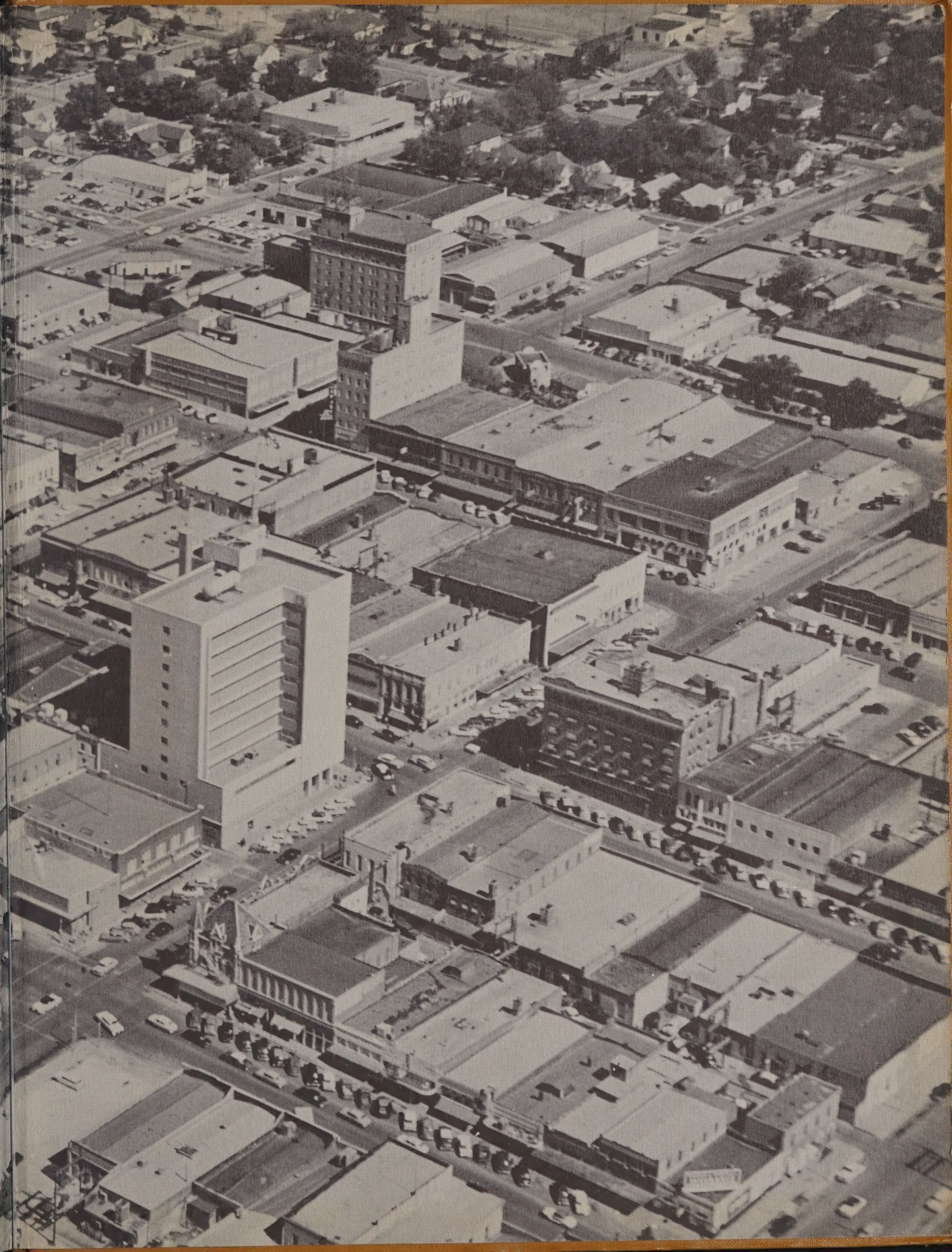
It would be an impossible task to print the name of each person who contributed toward the compilation of this book. All the newspapers, chambers of commerce and many other organizations helped. In addition to these is this partial list of persons who contributed material:

Mrs. Carl H. Aiken
A. C. Akridge
Mrs. James Allen
W. E. Arnold
L. D. Aston
Coleman Bailey
Mrs. Riley Bailey
Mrs. R. L. Barclay
F. W. Barkley
Bell News Stand
J. J. Bishop
Rev. Ivy Bohannon
Tillman Bond
Howard Boswell
Mrs. W. R. Brewton
Mrs. M. L. Brinzendine
E. D. Brooks
George Brown
Fred M. Bunker
W. I. Burnham
C. C. Canutson
Owen P. Carpenter
J. Wilfred Carter
J. T. Chamberlain
Bert Chaffin
Edna Chaffin
M. Chapman
Mrs. Lora Center
Calvin C. Chervenka
Mrs. Woodrow Chervenka
Mrs. Preston Childers
Mrs. Harry Clement
Bill Cloud
T. J. Cloud
Mrs. W. F. Cowan
Charles S. Cox Sr.
Mrs. Cleo Cox
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